



# Pc IN COMPUTER CASE FACING SACK

BY ALEX ROSS

**A POLICE officer is facing the sack for using the force's computer systems to look up her neighbours, ex-husband and partner's family.**

Pc Michelle Denne claimed that she used the police database to protect her three children, Birmingham Magistrates Court heard.

She used it to obtain information on neighbours and alleged historic disputes involving her ex-husband. She also researched the family of a new partner she was living with.

Denne, aged 44, of Tarragona Drive, Stafford, was given a six-month community order which included a 10-day rehabilitation course.

The court heard how it was 'highly likely' she will also lose her job at a special case hearing held by the force in the next two weeks.

District Judge Joanne Dickens told her: "You don't need me to tell you how serious this is. It is not just a breach of data protection, you accessed data for your own purposes, it breached your duty as a police officer."

## Disputes

Mrs Amy Davies, prosecuting, said the offences took place over seven years, starting in 2010 on February 12 and then April 9 when she used the police database to check on neighbours. Eight months later, on December 22, she checked the systems again, this time to look into the visitor to a neighbour's home she was concerned about. She logged on to get an update on a complaint she had made over a vehicle near her home address on June 25, 2015.

Then on December 6, 2016 she ran checks on her ex-husband, in connection with two disputes he allegedly had with his neighbours.

And, finally, on March 17 last year, she looked into the family of a partner she was living with.

In a police interview, Mrs Davies said, Denne admitted to checking up on the family, claiming 'it was more so out of curiosity and nosiness'.

Miss Michelle Heeley QC, defending, said of the offences: "This was foolish and not malicious." She said her client had used the computers in a bid to 'safeguard her children'.

Denne has served as a police officer for 20 years. She is currently suspended.

Miss Heeley added: "Once there is a criminal conviction a special case hearing takes place, within the next 14 days. It will be highly likely there will be immediate sacking for gross misconduct." Earlier this month she pleaded guilty to six charges under the Computer Misuse Act.

## VISITORS GET BRIGHT WELCOME TO THE ART TOWN



From left, Lesley Yates from Hednesford in Partnership, artist Gez Whitehouse and Councillor Paul Woodhead on the bridge

THE drive to brighten up the centre of Hednesford has got into gear with a striking piece of art on one of its key routes.

Both sides of the near 15 metre-long bridge which takes traffic over the railway at Market Street next to the town's railway station now have a far more interesting appearance.

The painting, envisages an Ordnance Survey map of the area overlaid with images of deer and trees on Cannock Chase, was chosen by a poll of local residents. It is part of a project called Bridging Communities that is run by Hednesford in Partnership and funded by Staffordshire County Council.

Cannock Chase Councillor Paul Woodhead, vice-chairman of Hednesford in Partnership, said: "I think the painting is fantastic. The aim was to capture a vision of the community in artistic form, and it displays an urban town at the gateway to the Chase.

"It transforms what was previously a battleship-dull bridge and brightens up this part

of town. It freshens the place and provides a fine welcome to those entering the town by rail or road."

Now the group want to repeat the theme in other parts of Hednesford.

The project received a £10,000 grant from Staffordshire County Council and still has money left after the completion of the bridge by local artist Gez Whitehouse, who submitted three possible designs to be voted on. He was helped with the painting by Roy Stanton.

## LITTER

### Helpers call for Chase clean-up

THE Friends of Cannock Chase are looking for volunteers to help with a litter pick on Saturday to clean the area up for other users. Those wishing to take part are asked to meet in the car park of the Visitor Centre in Marquis Drive at 10am.

Litter pickers and gloves will be provided but volunteers are reminded to wear appropriate clothing for the task. Organiser Judy Ganecki said: "Lots of people enjoy visits to Cannock Chase, and it is lovely to see this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty looking good, so come along and see if we can collect more than last year."

## ENTERTAINMENT

### 'Best of talent' in arts showcase

AN evening of entertainment organised by Cannock Chase Arts Council, showcasing 'Cannock's finest talent', will be held at the town's Avon Business and Leisure Centre next weekend.

The event on Saturday, May 5 features music, drama and comedy, and a photographic display. Tickets will be available on the door at £5 and those attending should take their own food and drink. The show starts at 7.30pm.

## FOOTBALL

### Warning over fake World Cup tickets

STAFFORDSHIRE Police have issued warnings about fake World Cup tickets.

The demand for tickets is expected to be high, and Action Fraud has discovered several websites where tickets are on sale. The force is reminding fans to avoid the risk and buy only from FIFA.

To report fraud call police on 101 or visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

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### POLLING DAY: WHO IS WHO



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**CONTACT US**

**EDITORIAL:**  
Tel: 01543 465302  
E-mail: [cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk)

**SPORTS:**  
Tel: 01902 319453  
E-mail: [chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk)

**PHOTOGRAPHIC:** Tel: 01902 319430  
E-mail: [picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk)

**ADVERTISING:** Sarah Jones  
Tel: 01543 465341  
E-mail: [sarah.winfield-jones@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:sarah.winfield-jones@expressandstar.co.uk)

**PROPERTY:** Marguerita Finnegan  
Tel: 01543 465337  
E-mail: [marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk)

**MOTORING:** Jayne La Hiffe  
Tel: 01543 465334  
E-mail: [jayne.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:jayne.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk)

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## Cricket club's tributes to 'real good guy'



Jason Revill – 'great character'

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former Cannock Cricket Club player who has died aged 47.

Jason Revill starred for the club from 2000 to 2006 and played alongside Kevin Pietersen when he featured for them as an overseas player.

The club said in a statement on Twitter: "We're shocked and saddened to hear of the death of former Cannock player Jason Revill. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends."

Honorary secretary Graham Machin said: "Jason was a fantastic club man, a fantastic person and a great character.

He played in the same team as Kevin Pietersen when Kevin was our overseas player.

"He was with us when we were at our peak in our Birmingham League years.

"His death is just heart-breaking for the club, we are devastated."

### Friends

Jason died on April 14. He had remained good friends with former Cannock team-mate Guy Bulpitt, who said Jason still played cricket at some level before his death.

Guy, 50, said: "Jason was in the team

that won the Birmingham League in 2001. He was the opening batsman that year, which is when Kevin Pietersen played for us.

"He lived in South Africa when he was aged from three to 13 before moving back to England.

"His dad moved back here, and that's when I first met Jason.

"He started playing at Stafford when he was around 14 or 15 and then moved to Cannock. Recently he was still playing a little bit for Staffordshire Gents.

"Jason was just a real good guy. His death is a real shock."

# Fire that burned for 18 months cost £35,000

**MORE than 300 firefighters spent almost 500 hours tackling a huge fire that burned at a farm for 18 months, costing the tax payer £35,000, it has been revealed.**

A Freedom of Information request found the figures after the stack of 1,000 tonnes of waste at Slitting Mill Farm in Rugeley was finally fully extinguished last month. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service firefighters first attended the blaze at Oak Tree Farm when the waste went up in flames at the start of September 2016.

An army of 322 firefighters has since worked on extinguishing the fire at the site, and the saga finally ended on March 6.

It cost Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service £34,057.59 to extinguish, which excludes the costs of whole-time crews that have been used when working as part of a normal shift. It would have taken large volumes of water to extinguish so it was decided that they would cap the fire to allow the combustion to continue but reduce the emission of smoke.

### Returning

Council bosses have since put pressure on the owners to clear the rubbish and they are continuing to monitor the site.

Tim Hyde, director of response at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "This incident was very drawn out and protracted, with crews returning to the site numerous times over a year and half; it took considerable resources to reach a conclusion.

"The risks to fire crews and environmental conditions on site meant that the hire of heavy plant was the safest and most effective way to reduce the effect of the fire on the local community and environment.

"While the hire fees were significant they did reduce the need for large numbers of firefighters to be on scene.

"We are working with a small number of other fire and rescue services across the country to identify a more efficient means of accessing heavy plant if it is required in future," Mr Hyde added.

## Town's sad farewell to tragic Mylee



People line the streets for the funeral of eight-year-old Mylee Billingham at St James Church, Brownhills

DOZENS of people lined the streets to bid a final farewell to tragic schoolgirl Mylee Billingham.

The funeral of the eight-year-old, who was stabbed to death, took place on Tuesday.

Mylee Billingham died following the attack in Valley View, Brownhills. Her mother Tracey Taundry

carried a doll and a piece of Swiss roll – Mylee's favourite cake – after leaving the funeral service.

Mourners were invited to wear 'bright and beautiful' clothing in memory of Mylee, who died in January after suffering knife wounds.

Floral tributes were left at St James Church in Brownhills,

where the service was held. The Rev Dave Bishop paid tribute to Mylee, who made a 'big impact' on those who knew her.

Mylee was pronounced dead in hospital after being found at her father William Billingham's home. He is charged with her murder but is yet to enter a plea.

## Live band night in aid of charity



Natasha Walker and Jodie Evans

A LIVE charity band night is being held to raise money for Mind on Saturday.

Visitors are welcome to the event, which is part of fundraising by Jodie Evans and Natasha Walker, both aged 24, which will go towards their Tough Mudder run plus Ryan McCulloch, Tom Parsonage, and Zack Goodhead, all 21, will be running the Lichfield Half Marathon. They are all fundraising for the mental health charity Mind.

The band night will take place at 8pm at St Mary's Social Club, Cannock, and tickets are £5 in advance or £6 on the night. Organiser of the event Emma Duff, 39, said: "My sister, Natasha, is going back to university to study mental health because she wants to help people.

"There is so much we do not understand about it and there is not much help out there for it. In 2016 my sister and her friend raised over £1,600 doing the half Tough Mudder and now they are doing the full one."

Tickets can be bought on 01543 570565, donations at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tashaandjodie](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tashaandjodie)

## VW Golf stolen as keys grabbed

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a car was stolen from a house in Burntwood.

Thieves took the keys for a Volkswagen Golf GTI from a house in Huntsmans Gate and drove off in the vehicle, which was later recovered in Birmingham by police officers.

Another set of keys was also stolen from the house but the car in question was not on the drive at the time.

The theft happened just after midnight last Wednesday. Officers are urging anyone with information to call Staffordshire Police on 101.

## New date for fair

A SPRING wedding fair and open day at South Staffordshire College's Rodbaston Hall, near Penkridge, has been rescheduled for May 13. The free admission event was due to have been held last month but was postponed because of the snow. It will run 11am to 2.30pm.



# Merger plan school rated 'good' after Ofsted visit

A RUGELEY school is celebrating after Ofsted inspectors rated it 'good' and praised its 'clear and compelling vision' to provide 'excellent education at the heart of its community'.

The Hart School was last inspected in 2013 when it was known as Fair Oak Academy.

It later merged with nearby Hagley Park to create The Hart School, with Chris Keen being appointed as its new principal.

Following the latest inspection, which took place earlier this month, Ofsted inspectors have praised Mr Keen's 'strong leadership', highlighted how teaching had been strengthened in the last two years, and the quality of the education provided overhauled since the last visit, particularly in the sixth form.

Publication of the report comes as the school, which is part of Creative Education Trust and attracts pupils from neighbouring Cannock and Lichfield as well as Rugeley, is planning to merge its two school sites onto a single site in Penkridge Bank Road from September.

Welcoming the report, Mr Keen said: "It's gratifying that the enormous efforts made by students, parents, teaching staff, the support team and the leadership group, under the guidance of Creative Education Trust, have been recognised in this overwhelmingly positive assessment."

# Review of Nunes case under way

MERSEYSIDE Police have begun a formal review into the Staffordshire murder of Kevin Nunes.

In February of this year, Chief Constable Gareth Morgan confirmed his intention to review the 2002 murder case, which saw five men jailed in 2008 but released on appeal in 2012.

Merseyside Police will now work to establish whether there is potential for the case to be re-investigated.

Mr Morgan said: "I am grateful to Merseyside Police for reviewing this case and I recognise this is a significant step forward for the family of Kevin Nunes, who have never received justice for his death."

Mr Nunes was found dead in Patterham, near Wolverhampton. He died of gunshot wounds.

# Ale festival dates

CANNOCK Chase Beer Festival will be held at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock town centre from September 20 to 22. The Cannock Chase branch of the Campaign for Real Ale will have 63 ales at the event.

# Big rewards on offer over thefts of bikes



The distinctive Cube Stereo 160 SL HPA Hybrid, taken in Cannock

REWARDS worth thousands of pounds are on offer across Staffordshire and the Black Country after dozens of bikes were stolen.

Almost 30 bikes have been taken over the last two years – including one by robbery in Wolverhampton when a child was kicked off his bike.

Desperate cyclists are taking to a website advertising rewards for stolen bikes in a bid to recover their machines, offering up to £500 for information leading to a conviction of the thieves.

Walsall and Cannock have had the

most bikes – six each – stolen, including a Yamaha Aerox, which was stolen from a driveway.

The highest reward of £500 is being offered over a stolen Cube Stereo 160 SL HPA Hybrid, which was taken from the Cannock area.

A Specialized Enduro Expert was one of the bikes that was stolen from the Stafford area.

It has since been recovered when it was found up for sale on Facebook and ebay, but there are still four bikes in the area waiting to be found.

Wolverhampton has seen four peo-

ple fall victim to bike theft, while Smethwick, West Bromwich and Dudley have each had two stolen and there was one theft from a secure cycle hub at Stourbridge.

While most cyclists complained of their bike being taken from a locked garage or shed, one poster had his car broken into at Cannock Chase.

The website, called Stolen Bikes, allows people to post a description of the bike they had stolen, alongside any useful details, such as time and date of the incident. Stolen scooters are also listed.

# £10,000 boost for dog centre in way of HS2

A DOG rescue centre that is being forced to move from its base near Rugeley because of HS2 has raised £10,000 to help fund its move.

HS2 has caused major disruption to the Border Collie Trust GB, located at Colton, prompting the charity to seek additional revenue streams to fund its relocation. Almost 400 supporters are helping the charity make a fresh start, raising more than £10,000.

The Border Collie Trust plans to use the cash raised to fund the compensation discussions with HS2 after being informed of plans to build the high-speed rail route alongside the kennels and redirect a road through the main paddock which is used to train dogs.

Border collies are unsettled and distressed by noise and sudden movements, and the 36 per cent loss of land has meant that the charity has made the difficult decision to move its kennels and rehoming facilities to a new location, in order to continue to help successfully rescue more than 400 border collies and collie crosses every year.

## Tough

Ben Wilkes, trustee at the Border Collie Trust GB, said: "It was with a heavy heart that we made the decision to relocate but the well-being of our collies has to come first.

"We have learned a lot since setting up the trust in 1996 so we will be making use of all our experiences when we set up afresh.

"We wouldn't be where we are today without our supporters – so we thank them in advance for their continuing support through the next few years, which will be tough and disruptive for the Border Collie Trust."

The money has been raised thanks to 'Give as you Live' technology, which generates charitable donations as shoppers spend online.

It works by redirecting a percentage of each purchase made through the site to the charity the shopper selects when signing up. The most raised in one transaction by a Border Collie Trust supporter was £99 with Exodus Travels.

Greg Hallett, managing director at Give as you Live, said: "We will stay close to the cause, playing our part in helping secure its future."



Society members Barbara Battersby, left, and Katherine Page unveil the heritage trail information board

# Another piece of the trail in place

A NEW heritage trail information board has been unveiled by Bridgton & District Local History Society.

One side of the board, on the A5 outside the Longford House Restaurant, shows the history of the building and the other how Watling Street has evolved.

Longford House was built in 1760 after industrialist William Gilpin's wife inherited a mill and two pubs. He built a second mill and the house, which he then moved into with his wife and child.

Secretary Derrick Middleton said the group was determined to keep the iconic site's legacy alive. Other boards have been installed at Churchbridge, Walsall Road, North Street, Wynn's Corner and Union Street.

Meanwhile, the society is holding a coffee morning on Wednesday at the Bethel Chapel from 10am when their latest publication, recording all the individuals who served in the First World War, will be unveiled.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Air ambulances called to crash

TWO air ambulances were called to the scene of a crash between a motorcyclist and a car.

The A460 Main Road was closed in both directions at its junction with Slitting Mill Road between Hedgesford and Rugeley after the accident, which happened at 3.52pm on Friday.

A spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service said: "There was a major crash involving a car and a motorbike along the A460 Main Road."

Staffordshire Police posted onto Twitter: "We're currently at the scene of a serious road traffic collision on the A460 Main Road, between Hedgesford and Rugeley."

# Firm moves into refurbished unit

GEORGE Koch Sons Europe has relocated to a newly refurbished office space in Lichfield city centre.

The company, which designs and supplies 'surface treatment and paint finishing systems' for the automotive and industrial markets, has taken 4,541 sq ft of space on the first floor of City House, which was refurbished last year and reopened in November.

The deal was agreed by joint agents Cushman & Wakefield and Kingston CPC on behalf of landlord EH Smith.

City House is part of City Wharf near Lichfield City railway station.

# Children's market attracts big crowd

ORGANISERS of a children's market in Penkridge say they are delighted by the turnout for this month's event.

After the market was held for the first time in April 2017, they decided to hold it twice a year – in April and September.

The event at Penkridge Market is run by Kate Kingsley, who says she has had some 'great feedback'.

She said: "This year we had lots of new attractions including a visit from the fire service, police and First Responders." The next children's market will be on Sunday, September 30.

# Tickets selling fast for guitarist Remi

HIGHLY talented guitarist Remi Harris is playing at the George Hotel in Lichfield on May 16.

It follows his appearance at the city's Blues and Jazz Festival last year when he made a great impression with his creative compositions and arrangements. "Tickets are selling very fast so I advise fans to book ASAP," Lichfield Arts' Brian Pretty said.

Tickets for the Remi Harris Trio are available at [www.lichfieldarts.org.uk](http://www.lichfieldarts.org.uk)

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## Dangerous driver hit officer in police chase

A DRIVER caught after a police pursuit has been jailed.

Eamon McCarthy, of Oaks Drive, Featherstone, tried to flee from officers while behind the wheel in Rugby.

The 23-year-old, who admitted dangerous driving, was jailed for eight months when he appeared at Warwick Crown Court. He collided with a police car while driving a Volkswagen Passat and hit an officer, causing a minor injury to their arm.

The defendant, who was handed a 32-month driving ban during the same court appearance, also narrowly missed a woman and her child when jumping a red light on March 15 last year. He was caught by police after an officer identified him from CCTV footage.

Detective Sergeant Ollie Deakin said: "McCarthy is a danger to other road users and pedestrians."

"The manner of his driving on March 15 last year fell far below the standards expected of a competent and careful driver. He showed no regard for others and it was lucky nobody was seriously injured or worse."

"He put his own life at risk and the lives of other road users and pedestrians," DS Deakin added.

"I would like to pay tribute to all the officers involved in the attempt to stop McCarthy. They showed immense bravery."

## Builder completes last of new homes

BUILDING work on the final phase of homes at a development in Cannock is now complete.

Linden Homes has built 111 new homes at Chenet Chase, off Lakeside Boulevard, and has just completed work on the final home.

Linda Huntington, head of sales at Linden West Midlands, said: "It's been wonderful to see the great progress we have made at Chenet Chase and how quickly the site has been transformed from a derelict piece of land into an attractive new neighbourhood."

The development has been named in recognition of Cannock's past - Chenet is the old name for the town - and its close proximity to Cannock Chase.

## Shropshire stroll

CHASE Ramblers' walk this Sunday is an eight-mile easy/moderate route from Market Drayton in Shropshire, meeting at Hednesford railway station car park for a 9am prompt departure. Call 01543 459746 for details.

# Start of campaign to smooth things over



Number one issue - roads worker Army Hackett with Councillor Helen Fisher

THIS is the machine that will be repairing the 11,000 potholes that were created in Staffordshire during the harsh winter conditions.

The campaign to fix damaged roads and help prevent the risk of fresh potholes comes as the county council has pledged £5 million to tackle the problem.

The campaign started in Meadowhill Drive, Hednesford, where a 15mm-deep hole was filled up and is now rolling out to thousands more.

It comes as thousands of motorists have to negotiate the huge number of

potholes across the county's roads to avoid damaging their vehicles. The situation was made worse after the harsh winter.

Of the £5m pledged, £2.5m will be spent on potholes, £500,000 will go to drainage improvement works and £2m into preventable maintenance including surface dressing of roads to make them more resilient.

It comes on top of the council's annual £23.5m roads budget.

Councillor Helen Fisher, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet support member for highways and

transport, said: "Potholes are the number one issue for people. Everybody uses the roads, while not everyone uses other council services."

"The roads are super important, they are important for the council, for little things like getting kids to school and for the community in general."

"We were lucky enough to get the funding for a second year, it really does make a big difference."

"We are spending the money on filling potholes and ensuring roads are protected from getting any to start with," she added.

# £5m outlay to rid roads of 11,000-plus potholes

**MORE than 11,000 extra potholes will be filled across Staffordshire this year - following a £5 million investment from the county council.**

This is on top of the county council's annual £23.5m roads budget and the 20,000 potholes repaired in a typical year.

The £5m investment will see:

- Four pothole 'zapping' machines working alongside crews on the potholes, surface dressing and routine maintenance. These machines help speed up repairs by blowing debris, priming the road and filling the potholes.

- A dozen additional patching crews to tackle the problem.

- Around 50,000 sq m of additional pothole patching, which equates to around 11,000 repairs on top of the 20,000 in a typical year.

- Drainage improvement works.

Councillor Helen Fisher, cabinet support member for highways and transport at Staffordshire County Council, said the extra investment will help to tackle the most urgent repairs across the county.

### Prioritise

She said: "A bad winter really does takes its toll on the roads, and although we still had snow until a few weeks ago, we are determined to get back on the front foot in tackling repairs."

"In a county as huge as Staffordshire we do have to prioritise repairs on our busiest roads where they pose the biggest risk to members of the public, and this further investment on top of the extra five million pounds last year will help us rise to the challenge."

"Good roads are important to the council, to the economy and to our communities."

People can go online or download the mystapp to report a pothole.

A council spokesman said: "The very urgent potholes are normally fixed within 24 hours and are classed as category one."

"Other urgent category two potholes are tackled in seven days where possible."

"Category three repairs, which are often on little used very rural roads, are addressed once the more urgent repairs are carried out," the spokesman added.

## Sailing club's anger at access route



Chris Beddow, left, and sailing secretary David Croxford look at some of the huge potholes near the club

THE road leading to a popular sailing club has been dubbed 'almost impassable' - with potholes causing a nuisance for members.

South Staffordshire Sailing Club, based at Gailey Lower Pool, Gailey, provides courses and activities for all ages and abilities.

But huge potholes along the road have led to members and passers-by suffering punctures,

the club says. Club member Chris Beddow says the club has been in contact with Staffordshire County Council since Christmas, but no repairs have been carried out.

He said: "The state of that road is on the point of impassable. I'm at the point of having to cancel upcoming events. The council seems to have a total inability to do anything about the

road. It's worse about 30 yards off the turning of the A5."

Councillor Helen Fisher, cabinet support member for highways, said: "We are very much aware of the problems there, which have been exacerbated by a flooding manhole cover. We have tackled what was causing the flooding and will be returning to fix the potholes as soon as possible."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Woman, aged 94, targeted by crook

A 94-YEAR-OLD was targeted by a crook who attempted to steal from her after gaining access to her home.

The resident let a female into her home in Hednesford, after she claimed to be from the council, but she became suspicious when she asked her for her purse. The offender has been described as white, 5ft 4in with shoulder-length hair and was wearing a light anorak.

Ward councillor Doris Grice said: "It is disgusting, it is terrible when you cannot live in your own house and feel safe. Everybody in the village must keep alert. We shall all have to look after each other."

### Deadline looms for care awards

TIME is running out to nominate someone for the sixth year of the Dignity in Care Awards.

Staffordshire County Council is urging people to nominate their work colleagues, carers, friends and family members for the special award which recognises care services and individuals who ensure people in care are treated with dignity and respect.

The closing date for nominations is May 25. Winners will be announced and presented with their prize on July 18. Visit [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/dignityincare](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/dignityincare) or call 01785 355795.

### Appeal on carvery break-in attempt

THIEVES tried to break into a popular carvery restaurant in Norton Canes.

Police are appealing for information after the attempted break-in at the Toby Carvery. The incident happened early on Sunday, April 15.

A spokesman for Staffordshire Police said: "It was reported to us that there was an attempted break-in at Toby Carvery in Norton Canes."

"If anyone has information regarding this, please call 101 quoting serial number 192-15/04/2018," the spokesman added.

### Public footpaths in village to be tidied

COUNCILLORS, residents, members of both Lichfield and Walsall Ramblers, are planning to tidy up public footpaths in Hammerwich starting in the first week in May.

This will involve removal of bramble, nettles, blackthorn and general clearance work.

Everyone is welcome to join in, meeting other residents old and new.

Anyone wishing to help can contact Councillor Gittings on 07504 213186.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Plans for Royal not what doc ordered

THE £25 million scheme to redevelop Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital has received a lukewarm reception from Historic England, the quango set up to safeguard our architectural heritage.

The plans would see the Grade II listed building turned into 53 flats, but the main bone of contention is the proposal to knock down the former nurses' quarters, dating back to 1910.

Personally, I find the idea of turning this majestic building into a block of flats a bit underwhelming. With a little imagination, could it have become a leisure quarter, packed with stylish restaurants, bars and specialist boutiques?

On the other hand, the hospital has been empty for 20 years, and it would be a tragedy if it were to fall into further decline. Perhaps we should be pragmatic. Maybe the nurses' home could be moved to the Black Country Museum.

Historic England's concerns emerged the same week as the same group launched a debate on whether or not we should demolish Nelson's Column, even producing an excruciating graphic of the monument being smashed by a wrecking ball. So while Historic England is worried about a disused nurses' home it thinks there is a valid argument for knocking down one of Britain's most recognisable landmarks. Good to know it's got its finger on the pulse.

□ □ □

WHILE politicians bicker like kids about the Windrush scandal, I fear the real point is getting lost.

The landing cards which would have provided the necessary evidence to prevent the debacle had been stored in a basement for decades. But then, in 2009, the UK Border Agency approved a "business case" to dispose of paper records. Says it all, doesn't it? Whenever a Whitehall pen-pusher starts talking about the "business case", alarms bells should ring. Bureaucrats just love playing the corporate executive don't they? One wonders how many of them would survive in the cut-and-thrust of the real business world.

No doubt the people who destroyed these vital files thought they were being frightfully modern, getting rid of all those dusty old papers and placing their trust in shiny new computers. Buzzwords like "paperless office", "digital" and "streamlined" probably also figured.

And how are the authorities, always so impotent at preventing illegal immigration and deporting foreign criminals, so red-hot efficient at cracking down on peaceful middle-aged folk without the right papers?

## Tories braced but local polls rarely reflect national mood



Jeremy Corbyn – local elections could provide him with a personal boost



Theresa May – could the outcome have a bearing on her political future?



Norah Batty – but not the same as the one who made a substantial legacy

# May could cause problem for PM

THE Tories are already bracing themselves for some catastrophic results at the local elections. But, conversely, this poll could well provide the beleaguered Jeremy Corbyn with his biggest personal boost since he became leader of the Labour Party. Equally, dire results could lead to further mumbling among Tory MPs about the quality of Theresa May's leadership. But, be warned: Local authority polls rarely reflect with any accuracy at all the prevailing national mood of politics, whatever the victorious candidates may tell you after the event. These elections are invariably used by supporters of the prevailing Government to deliver a 'buck-up-your-ideas' kick in the pants, painful enough to give ministers a warning that they'd better do better - or else - without actually toppling them. So, before the first week of May is out, we are likely to see considerable tracts of the land on the political map changed from blue to red, as Labour seem likely to gain seat after seat, largely at the expense of the Tories.

ALTOGETHER a grim prospect for Mrs May. The outcome could have a bearing on her political future. And what of the Liberal Democrats? The party came close to being wiped off the face of Westminster in the past two years, but the gruff leader, Sir Vince Cable, sees sunlight uplands ahead. They will probably pick up a few seats here and there, but as for the massive revival he hopes for? Forget it.

ON our recent trip to Chester we came across some old houses in Abbey Street which had been restored, according to the plaque, 'with

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



the help of a substantial legacy from Mrs Norah Batty'. Not the same one, apparently.

A REPORT recently claimed that even moderate drinking can shorten your life. But don't you just know that any day now there will be another report claiming that moderate drinking is good for you? Father Ted's famous words on religion - "That's the great thing about Catholicism - it's very vague and no-one knows what it's really all about" - apply just as well to medicine.

THAT great historian of our age, Philomena Cunk, made a good point in her series on the history of the United Kingdom of Great Britain (BBC2) concerning the development of computers. How very odd it is that the inventor of the first programmable computer or "difference engine," Charles Babbage (1791-1871) created the prototype of a device which, thanks to predictive texting 200 years later, would always spell his name as Cabbage.

YOU might think some things have been developed to the point where no further refinement is required. Not so. A reader describes a line of seemingly identical wheelbarrows at a garden centre. One was £20 cheaper than the others. "It's last year's model," explained the salesman.

GREAT news for motorists. As a result of a crackdown on bogus whiplash-injury claims, we are told "car-insurance premiums have fallen for the first time since 2014." This looks like one of those things that only affect other people. My premium for this year fell upwards, as always.

ANOTHER report reveals we are driving more old vehicles than ever. The number of cars over 13 years old has almost tripled in 20 years. The experts cite changes in car taxation and uncertainty about the future of diesel, but there is another crucial factor: rust. Since the early 2000s most cars have been rustproofed as never before. That's why you see so many 04 and 05-registered cars in great condition. By making cars last longer, car makers have undermined their own future.

CONSPIRACY-theory corner. If politicians feared that long-lasting cars might bankrupt the motor industry, how could they suddenly scrap lots of old cars to kick-start sales? They could tighten the MoT test. They could ignore millions of potholes. It's happening, folks.

I CELEBRATE St George's Day in my usual manner by not wearing a silly costume, not singing patriotic songs, not watching street dancers and not flying a flag. Why not? Because I'm English and those are things that foreigners do.

THE compressed-air machine at my local garage which used to charge 50p to pump up your tyres has been replaced by a new machine charging £1. Inflation, presumably.

## TALKING POINT



# Don't let children wander on their own

I STILL remember the horrifying footage of the two boys leading away toddler Jamie Bulger in 1993. Maybe parents these days are too young to remember, or memories fade, a bit like the rubber neckers who drive past a motorway crash and swear that they will never speed again. That pledge normally lasts for only the next few miles then, back to normal, foot on the pedal.

For those who don't remember, Jamie's mum took her eyes off the two year-old for just a second when she was in a shop and two boys led him away. His body was found on a railway line. Two young boys were put behind bars. Lives shattered.

When I brought up my children and was out with them I always held on tightly to them, reins were popular and were the perfect solution when you had to take your eyes off them, even for just a minute. That does not seem to be the case these days. When I walked through the Mander Centre the other day I was horrified to see children walking paces behind their parents while the adults chatted with friends, seemingly oblivious to where their toddler was.

Anybody could have led them away. I nearly stopped to ask one little boy if he was lost, did he know where his mum or dad was, etc, but then he cornered into a shop where I presume his carer was. And these days you have to be so careful approaching young children in case people take it the wrong way. I am sure you know what I mean.

That was not an isolated occasion. Many times I have seen toddlers trailing along. Why is their hand not being held? A few moments of thoughtlessness could bring a lifetime of misery. Hold on to your children!

I was moaning about it to a colleague when she told me a similar incident of poor parenting. She had seen a man cycling with two small children on bikes following him. He went straight across a busy road, seemingly oblivious to the fact that the children would follow and may be, by then, cars could be coming and it would not be safe to cross.

How would he have felt if one - or both - of them had been hit by a car? Surely the children should have been in front where he could keep an eye on them.

I think it is great that children be involved in shopping trips, sports, etc, but remember they are only young and they have not got the experience to deal with some situations.

Children are precious - keep them close and keep them safe!

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# Trust gets helping hand at common



Volunteers have been carrying out scrub control at Gentleshaw Common

ARMY medic students from the Defence College of Healthcare Education and Training gave a helping hand to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust by carrying out scrub control at Gentleshaw Common.

The group from Defence Medical Services (Whittington) near Lichfield have been helping the trust on the site to support their local community in keeping lowland heathland reserve from disappearing under a blanket of

scrub and ensuring the space is kept open for everyone to enjoy the landscape.

It has involved the group cutting down oak and silver birch saplings.

Given time, these would continue to grow, resulting in large areas of lowland heathland being lost and replaced by woodland.

Hayley Dorrington, southern heathland reserves warden for the trust, said: "The group were fantastic. Large

areas of saplings were removed, revealing the heathland species below.

"Heathland management is a continuous process, and without the volunteers' support, I think Gentleshaw Common would look very different.

"We will be monitoring the areas they cleared to see what species return."

Anyone interested in their work can follow UK Defence Medical Services on Twitter - @defence-medical

# 'Junk' find sells for £6k



The rare plaque  
Photo: Hansons

A FORGOTTEN plaque found in a box of junk at a property near Lichfield became the unexpected star of the show when it went under the hammer at auction.

The unusual Middle Eastern plaque was discovered among contents consigned from the cellars of a grand country house and was thought to be worthless. But it turned out to be packed with precious stones and sold for seven times its top estimate at Hansons Auctioneers in Derbyshire.

Adrian Rathbone, associate director of Hansons, said: "This was a wonder-

ful find. The vendors had no idea the item was of great value. Our head of jewellery Helen Smith, with her vast knowledge of precious and semi-precious stones, was quick to note that this plaque was important.

"Such was its quality, after close study by Helen, it was entered into our spring fine art sale and became the unexpected star of the show and deservedly so. The plaque went into our sale with an estimate of £400 to £600. After intense bidding on the phones and internet the gavel eventually fell to a London buyer at £6,600."



Helen Smith -  
close study



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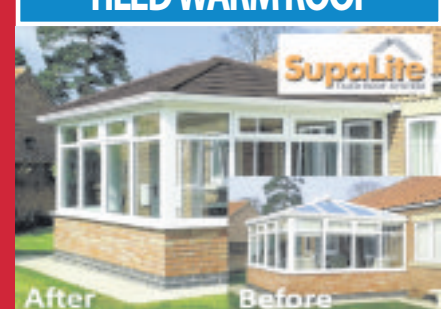
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## Stay safe in your home

MORE accidents happen in the home than anywhere else, and people over the age of 65 are most at risk of severe injury.

In response, Independent Age, the older people's charity, has launched a new, free advice guide to help older people and their families.

The guide, called 'Home safety: How to spot risks and prevent accidents', is free to order and download from [www.independentage.org/home-safety](http://www.independentage.org/home-safety) or by calling 0800 319 6789.

**LUCY HARMER**  
Independent Age

## Let's be nice

I AGREE with C Falconi about their three wishes to improve the world (Letters, April 12). I have another – why can't everyone be nice to one another?

**STEPHEN GALLETT**  
Cannock

## Opportunity missed over power station site

I READ with interest Councillor Mike Wilcox's comments regarding the 'derelict' and 'disused' site that is Rugeley Power Station.

I am sure that he is aware that until recent times the power station employed many Rugeley people.

In their eagerness to make more money, Cannock Chase Council and Lichfield District Council have overlooked a golden opportunity to provide

people already residing in Rugeley with a real asset.

The power station had a thriving and much-used social club with a golf course, fishing lake, miniature railway, bowling green, tennis courts, a cricket pitch, a football pitch and a brass band.

There was also an excellent clubhouse with a snooker room, practice rooms for the band, a full kitchen, bar and an excellent ballroom which could

be, and was, hired for wedding receptions, wakes, concerts, variety shows, birthday parties and dances.

This is not counting the birds and wildlife that were attracted to the area. All of these facilities could surely have been retained for use by residents both old and young which I feel would have benefitted many people for many years.

**MRS ANN PERRY**  
Norton Canes

## Don't bottle up reason for purchasing water

I AM now in my late years and in all my life am certain that I have never purchased bottled water unless no other source was available. This would be an extremely rare situation in my case.

I am not criticising other people's choice but I would like to know the reasons for buying something that householders pay for through their water rates and which can be easily carried on journeys and trips.

I understand anyone's aversion to fluoride and respect that view but that's the only reason I can relate to.

I would welcome being enlightened as to other reasons for buying water in bottles.

**W WIGGINS**  
Wheaton Aston

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Solve UK's problems first please

TO all the MPs in Parliament and the Lords in their chambers, sending billions in aid to so-called Third World countries, as our own country is turning into one – few police on the streets, crime getting worse, and the NHS is in dire need of sorting out.

Our roads are in a pathetic state, potholes everywhere, roads need repairing and patching.

Sort our island out please. MPs and Lords need to realise we are not the world power we used to be.

Some of the aid we send to Third World countries is supposed to help villagers get water. But there are daily TV adverts appealing to people to send money for water aid. Why?

**MR M EDWARDS**  
Hednesford

## Some owners are too stupid to own animals

I AGREE with Tom Rushton regarding the responsibilities of dog ownership "Get tough on dog owners", April 12).

I witnessed a black Labrador walking off lead up our road, followed by its owner, carrying an unattached lead in his left hand, while he was busy texting with his right hand, and totally oblivious to what his dog was doing.

I also see another owner walking his dog off lead, in our road, on a regular basis. By law, these dogs should be under control in public places, which entails them being on a lead.

If these idiots cannot understand the reasoning behind such a law, and the consequences of the irresponsible owner's actions, should their dog attack another person or their pet, or cause a road traffic accident, then they are simply too stupid to own any animal.

**MRS SHARON PAINTER**  
Rugeley

## Vote was based on logic

REMOANERS just don't get it. I didn't need the leave or remain campaign to vote leave, it was logical to want taxes, interest rates, laws, etc, to be set by our own elected government not some faceless bureaucrat in Brussels. And regards Brexit letting future generation down, I was a minor once and had to accept the outcome when I couldn't vote being under age. The EU only wants a cash cow – the UK!

**ROB EGAN**  
Rugeley

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# Green light for 27 new homes on hotel site

**PLANS to build homes on the site of a historic hotel have been given the green light.**

Developer Strada Romana will create 27 properties at the 'run-down' Grade II-listed Cedar Tree Hotel in Main Road, Rugeley.

A total of 16 houses will be built on an existing car park, while nine apartments will be created within the main hotel building. An annex will make way for two houses. A squash court and function room attached to the building will also be demolished.

Cannock Chase Council approved the plans this week. It follows two other planning applications that were approved but were never acted upon.

The first plan in 2009 was for 14 homes, while a second was a proposal for seven homes in 2011.

Ward councillor Alan Dudson said: "I am pleased it is going to happen, I believe it will enhance the area."

"It looks rundown at the moment and when the Premiere Inn opened by Colliers Arms it took a lot of business away. This council investment to build properties for luxury apartments is great. I hope the developers look at the people who live nearby in Church View. There is a row of seven terraced houses there, and the building could be disruptive to them."

The building dates back to the 18th Century, when it was built as a private house known as Cedar Lodge, and is one of six listed buildings in the Brereton Conservation Area.

It was remodelled in the 19th Century and has a reception, bar and restaurant and a kitchen. The hotel is named after the 400-year-old tree that is on the grounds. Councillor Dudson added: "The cedar tree under the front will not be touched because it has a protection order on it."



Listed interest - Cedar Tree Hotel in Main Road, Rugeley

## Riders to head for lakes

THE second in the series of seven free Cycle Rides for All will pedal off to Fisherwick Lakes and back on Sunday.

Each month the group cycles to a new destination. The rides are graded from level 1, which are suitable for beginners, to level 4, which are for more experienced cyclists.

Sunday's ride has been graded level 2, which means it should be suitable for less experienced cyclists.

Anyone who wants to join the ride to Fisherwick Lakes should turn up with

their bike at Freedom Cycles at Windsor Business Park on Trent Valley Road, Lichfield, at 10am. Under-16s must be accompanied by an adult.

For the full Cycle Rides for All programme, visit [www.lichfieldcc.gov.uk/cyclerides](http://www.lichfieldcc.gov.uk/cyclerides)

To find out more about the scheme, or to check whether a ride is taking place if the weather is uncertain, call Lichfield District Council's parks team on 01543 308867 or Freedom Cycles on 01543 411633.

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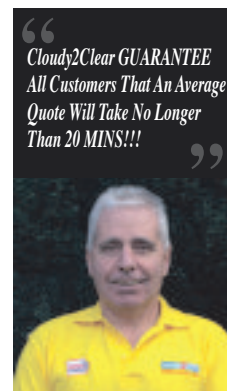
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## Home care provider in search of a rescue plan

FINANCIAL pressures have forced one of the country's biggest private home care providers to seek a rescue plan.

Allied Healthcare, based in Stafford, cited a 'highly challenging environment' as the business, which cares for 13,500 patients annually, confirmed it is pursuing a company voluntary arrangement (CVA).

Struggling companies try to agree a CVA with creditors in a step to revive their fortunes while paying off debts - something the firm said would 'not impact on the safe continuity of care'.

In a statement the provider, with its headquarters at Cavendish House on Staffordshire Technology Park, said: "Allied Healthcare has been operating in a highly challenging environment for a sustained period of time, which has placed pressure on the company."

"As a result, Allied Healthcare has taken the decision to pursue a CVA, as part of a prospective business plan that will ensure safe continuity of care across our UK-wide operations, place the company on a sustainable long-term footing, and maximise repayments to creditors."

With 83 branches across the country, 8,700 employees and 150 local authority and other contracts, Allied Healthcare said there will be no redundancies or closures. The provider offers a range of services including end-of-life care, as well as home care visits for the elderly and those recovering from injury, or individuals with learning disabilities.

Allied added in the statement: "Under the CVA plan, there would be no redundancies or branch closures as a result of its implementation. Allied Healthcare will continue to trade safely and it remains business as usual for Allied Healthcare employees and customers."

"The proposed CVA will not impact on the safe continuity of care that Allied Healthcare provides across the UK."

## A5 shut as fire hits former sex club



The scene of the blaze at Wheaton Aston Old Hall on the A5 Picture: @StaffsFire

FIVE men have been arrested in connection with a fire at a former swingers sex club.

Police confirmed that a 55-year-old man from Rugeley, a 25-year-old man from Willenhall and three men from Wolverhampton, aged 20, 22 and 33 respectively, had been arrested on suspicion of arson and burglary.

All five men were arrested at the scene and taken

into police custody. Formerly known as Utopia, the swingers club was a popular adult venue for couples.

The A5 Watling Street at Ivetsey Bank was closed as dozens of firefighters tackled the flames at the 18th Century Wheaton Aston Old Hall.

Five crews from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service attended the incident at 10.12pm on Thursday and a road closure was in place for several hours.

## 'Give us cash' con returns

STAFFORDSHIRE Police are continuing to receive calls from members of the public regarding a scam which attempts to gain money.

The force says it has been contacted by a number of residents in Burntwood and Lichfield who have received calls, texts and voicemails from people claiming to be from HM Revenue & Customs.

They have been told they have an outstanding debt with HMRC or that a complaint has been lodged against them and they must pay a fee - sometimes thousands of pounds - within a matter of hours or face court action.

The fraudsters have demanded that the money be either transferred to a bank account of their choosing or that an equivalent value of iTunes vouchers is purchased and then transferred.

"We would like to remind you that no government agency, like HMRC, would ring demanding money over the phone and no legitimate company will ask you to buy vouchers to make or receive payment," a police spokesman said.

"If you receive a suspicious cold call, end it immediately, and contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040," the spokesman added.

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# Bereavement service is chosen charity



June Bould

JUNE Bould, the new president of SI Cannock & District, has selected Phoenix at St Giles – Children and Young Person's Community Bereavement Service, as her chosen charity.

She was given the chain of office by out-going president Val Jones at the AGM. June joined SI Cannock & District four

## SI Cannock & District

years ago and has been involved with all of the projects the club has taken on in that time.

She worked in the NHS for 16 years as a speech and language therapy technical instructor working with adults at both Can-

nock and Stafford hospitals and also in the community.

June told members she hopes members continue to work together in the spirit of friendship, helping women and girls locally, nationally and internationally. She also stressed SI is a voluntary organisation and members need to enjoy all they do.

# Lynn wins trophy as club takes look back

## £400 cheque given to air ambulance

Cheslyn Hay TG

## Etching Hill WI

THE club's president Ann Ingleby welcomed Helen Mancey, WI adviser, to their Annual General Meeting.

Once the formal proceedings of the AGM were completed, with the incumbent president being re-elected, Ann highlighted the activities that had taken place during the past 12 months.

These included the handover of the public access defibrillator now in situ at the Village Hall; visiting Woodleighton Grove Gardens in Uttoxeter; Carols by Candlelight at Arley Hall, Cheshire; dining at Hawksyard Hall for the Christmas party; the skittles evening in Hednesford; and members invited on a regular basis to meet for lunch at various local venues.

## Vintage

An interesting and varied programme of speakers had been enjoyed along with two mini-auctions and competitions held throughout the year.

The overall winner of these competitions was Lynn Baxter, who was presented with the Helen Dawson Trophy. Chris Pemberton and Joyce Setterfield followed in second and third place respectively.

Etching Hill WI recently hosted the Rose and Shamrock Group Meeting. Guest speaker Notty Hornblower gave a commentary on her models as they strutted the catwalk wearing fabulous vintage clothing dating back to the early 1920s. The group



Club president Ann Ingleby, left, hands the Helen Dawson Trophy to Lynn Baxter

competition was to make and bring a 1920s flapper headband and following judgment by Notty, Chris Pemberton from Etching Hill WI was announced the winner.

The speaker at the meeting on May 9 is Lynn Evans on The History of Clog Dancing followed by the 72nd birthday party. Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at Etching Hill Village Hall from 7.45pm. Visit [www.wi-etching-hill.org.uk](http://www.wi-etching-hill.org.uk)

CHESLYN Hay Townswomen's Guild had two visitors at their April meeting.

Jo Bailey, fundraising manager for the Midlands Air Ambulance, received a cheque for £400 from Val Steadman, chair lady for the Guild, which had been raised by the members as their charity for the year.

In her vote of thanks Jo said it takes nine million pounds to keep the helicopter in the sky so all donations are gratefully received.

The speaker for the afternoon was David Mills from Walsall Leather Museum. He said Walsall has been the centre of the leather trade all around the world since the 1890s and the coming of the railways had contributed to make this possible.

Members were shown various types of leather including a handbag, leather armour, flying jacket, shoes, boots, and stirrups.

The finest saddles were and still are made in Walsall, he said. Everyone was very interested, and he said the museum holds events and activities for all ages.

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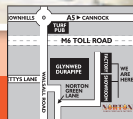


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# House of Fraser to consider closures

**EMBATTLED** department store chain House of Fraser, which includes Wolverhampton's Beatties, has appointed KPMG to advise on a restructuring plan for the business.

It could involve store closures and job losses. The retailer, owned by Chinese conglomerate Sanpower, has drafted in advisers to look at a range of options.

One option could be an insolvency procedure known as a Company Voluntary Agreement.

Several retailers have pursued CVAs to save on costs this year, including Carpetright and New Look. The procedure would involve House of Fraser seeking agreement from landlords to cut rents and possibly shutting some of its 56 UK stores.

House of Fraser has 6,000 employees and 11,500 concession staff at its UK sites, which also include Beatties in Solihull, Rackhams in Shrewsbury and stores in Birmingham and Telford.

But the chain has not yet decided what form of restructuring it will opt for.

The company is due to detail its turnaround plan

## By John Corser

in the coming weeks. House of Fraser's troubles came to the fore in January after it suffered a drop in sales over Christmas. The business has already started talking to landlords to reduce the size of its stores.

Sanpower chairman Yuan Yafei has voiced his commitment to House of Fraser and has been pumping millions of pounds into the retailer to keep it on an even keel.

House of Fraser's woes comes at a torrid time for the retail sector, with thousands of jobs lost this year.

Toy R Us was one of the most high-profile retail casualties in the first quarter, with electronics retailer Maplin going into administration on the same day.

# Banjo man Dan all set for show



**The Dan Walsh trio will be performing at the Stafford Gatehouse Theatre next month**

MUSIC star Dan Walsh is hoping to delight his home crowd at the Stafford Gatehouse. Following a mammoth world tour promoting the release of his 'Verging On The Perpendicular' album, BBC Folk Awards nominee Walsh's annual UK tour offers an exciting change for 2018.

This show will see the launch of the all new Dan Walsh Trio - featuring award-winning fiddler Ciaran Algar and long-time collaborator Nic Zuppari on mandolin.

Although favourites from banjo player Walsh's highly-praised albums will be in the set, the gigs are to be mostly shaped around new material. At the heart of the trio's sound is British, Irish and American folk music delivered with a healthy dose of funky grooves. They will be at the Gatehouse on May 8 from 8pm.

Dan, who is from Stafford, said: "I am seriously excited about this gig. This is the first tour of this new Dan Walsh Trio and we're all getting a real kick out of the music."

# Happy Days

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- Visit to Ryde
- Visit to the English Wine Centre



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5 Days	Monday 3rd September 2018	£249.00
5 Days	Monday 29th October 2018	£220.00
4 Days	Friday 7th December 2018*	£179.00

(Turkey & Tinsel) \*1 excursion only on this date to Worthing.

## ISLE OF WIGHT Sandown

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- Visit to Ryde
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5 Days	Monday 5th November 2018	£199.00

(Turkey & Tinsel)

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Thursday 24th	Gloucester Quays	£22.00
Saturday 26th	York City	£23.00
Monday 28th	Terracotta Warriors / Tall Ships (Bank Holiday)	£35.00
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Tuesday 29th	Chester City / Chester Zooor Cheshire Oaks	£19.00
Wednesday 30th	Twycross Zoo NEW!	£37.50
Thursday 31st	West Midlands Safari Park	£26.50



## ISLE OF WIGHT Shanklin

- Coach Travel
- 4 Nights Bed, Breakfast & Evening Meal at the Langham Court Hotel
- Visit to Newport
- Island Tour

5 Days	Monday 21st May 2018	£199.00
5 Days	Monday 27th August 2018	£229.00
5 Days	Monday 24th September 2018	£199.00



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# Digging deep in bid for Best Kept Village title

## Monument is a step closer



Front, retired RAF Warrant officer Donald Campbell with, left, Pauline Milnes, Winston White, Barabra Campbell, Suzanne Lynch, Joan Gregory-Bartosch, Enmund Grandison, Carol Curtis, Roland Lisk-Carew, Deborah Nicholls, Fred Perry and Martin Levermore

CAMPAIGNERS are moving forward with plans for a lasting legacy to honour soldiers and civilians from the Caribbean.

The National Caribbean Monument Charity is working to raise £500,000 for a monument which will stand in the grounds of the National Memorial Arboretum.

A shortlist of possible sites for the memorial which will pay trib-

ute to those who fought alongside British soldiers in both world wars and other conflicts, as well as those who helped to rebuild the country's towns and cities, has now been drawn up.

Trustees visited to view the suggested locations for the monument represent the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, the Auxiliary Territorial Service and Merchant Navy.

VILLAGES across Staffordshire are digging deep to make sure they're looking blooming marvellous as the Best Kept Village competition heats up.

Everything is ready for the judging to begin, with the experts set to tour the 42 villages which have entered on May 1, with the second round judging following in June before the area and county judging in July.

And many of the stalwarts of the competition have entered again, including Tutbury, near the Derbyshire border, which has only missed one year since the competition began in 1956. The teams have now been organised for the first and second rounds after a judges' meeting in Acton Trussell.

John Perry, chairman of the Best Kept Village Working Group, which organises the competition on behalf of the Community Council of Staffordshire, said: "Villagers have put a lot of hard work into their entries and will be anxious to make sure that their villages look as good as they can throughout the competition."

While entry numbers are down a little this year, from 48 in 2017, Hednesford, the first 'urban village' entry last year, has entered again and is hoping to do well.

The first and second round judging takes place during May and June. Then the best villages in each area are judged again in early July; and then the best villages in the county are judged again in late July, when the Best Large and Best Small Villages in the whole of Staffordshire will be revealed. All the winners will be announced at a presentation evening on August 6.

Mr Perry added: "There will be lots of activity over the next three months in all the villages which have entered."

"Groups and individuals will be hard at work keeping churchyards, open spaces and play areas in good order, sweeping out bus shelters and phone boxes, keeping noticeboards, posters and all sorts of other things in good condition."

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## FOCUS ON RUGELEY

# £30k each – lottery win is right up their street



The Rowan Drive residents scooped the prize when their postcode, WS15 4TQ, was drawn

**NINE neighbours in Handsacre have netted £30,000 each thanks to their postcode.**

The Rowan Drive residents scooped the prize when their postcode, WS15 4TQ, was drawn as the winner of People's Postcode Lottery's Street Prize on April 15.

Emma Yates, a 37-year-old clinical administrator and mother of two, said: "It's totally overwhelming to have won."

"It's such a fantastic amount of

money and means so much to me and my family.

"Some of it will go towards making my son's seventh birthday that little bit more special and maybe a big family trip somewhere warm."

Lady luck was on special educational needs teacher Margaret Candlish's side but not how she expected. She scooped the £30,000 while on a trip with friends to Las Vegas.

Her husband Richard, a controls engineer, was on hand to collect the cheque and said: "It's unbelievable –

she went all the way to Las Vegas and won at home!"

Dave Heath, 42, said: "We have a lot of big birthdays coming up later this year, our twin boys turn eighteen and it's also my 60th so lots to celebrate."

Local business owner Natalie Bartram, 34, said: "We'll definitely be celebrating this win with the kids and the rest of the family."

Colin Orange, David Hill, Pete Sweeney and Dawn Felton were among the remaining winners on the street.



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# School's joy at dance festival

PUPILS from local middle schools and dance academies took part in Wolgarston High School's annual dance festival. The Penkridge school's head of PE, Sally Stanton, who organised the event, said: "It was brilliant to see so many parents, family and friends turn up to show their support for our students."

This year's theme was 'Dancing through the Decades', with students from Penkridge and Brewwood Middle, Wolgarston High, Dene Dance School, Sandra's School

# Bank closure 'is a big blow for our town'

THE closure of Hednesford's last bank could be a 'hell of a blow' for trade, it has been claimed. Lloyds Banking Group announced plans to shut 49 banks in the UK, including its branch in Market Street.

The move means customers will have to travel to Cannock for their banking needs after the closure. Councillor Sheila Cartwright said: "I'm really against it. We are doing our bit to put Hednesford back on the map and it's going to take people and trade out of Hednesford. It's a real shame. I can't see why they have got to close it." The closures will take effect between July and October.

## Glorious sunshine puts Beast in shade



**Volunteer Sue Allen from Cannock at The Wolsley Centre**

PHEW! Memories of the Beast from the East were a distant memory as Staffordshire sizzled in the sunshine. Temperatures reached as high as 25°C (77°F) in some areas, with shorts, T-shirts and sunglasses on display as people stepped out in the glorious weather across the region last week. Garden centres were bustling as customers turned their attentions to getting outdoors again. Meanwhile, golf courses and parks were also busy with people.

Sue Allen, from Cannock, was among the volunteers getting stuck into some gardening at The Wolsley Centre, near Rugeley. However, no sooner had the sun emerged from behind the clouds than Severn Trent was issuing a warning over hosepipe bans. The company used the upturn in temperatures to remind people to conserve water.

And, although it says it doesn't envisage restrictions this summer, it said it could not rule them out. Water efficiency manager Doug Clarke said: "The biggest temptation is to get the hosepipe or sprinkler out and leave it running."

## 16,000 on crime alert

MORE than 16,000 people have signed up to a police alerts service which informs the community of crimes. Statistics up to February show some 10,000 app downloads, with more than 6,000 email registrations. Launched in 2016, Staffordshire Smart Alert provides 'real time' crime and community safety information through a downloadable app or via email.

## Final call to book for business exhibition

ORGANISERS are making a final call to companies to book their stand at Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce's annual Let's Do Business exhibition. The event, at Uttoxeter Racecourse on June 28, will host a number of businesses from a wide range of sectors and attract hundreds of delegates. Chamber director Chris Plant said: "We've seen a huge amount of interest from people who would like to attend and exhibit at the event. "With just a few stands left, it's imperative that businesses move swiftly and guarantee their place at the biggest business exhibition in Staffordshire." To book a stand or for more details visit [www.letsdobusinessexpo.co.uk](http://www.letsdobusinessexpo.co.uk)

of Dance, Revolution Dance Academy and Loco Academy all taking the stage as well as 13 members of Wolgarston's staff. "As always it was great to see everyone come together within the local community and celebrate the talent our students have," Mrs Stanton added. "Every year I am amazed at the outstanding level of performance achieved by all of the children and staff. They are amazing and have made us so proud. I wonder what next year's festival theme will be?"

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## 27,000 urged to improve lifestyle over diabetes risk

AROUND 27,500 Staffordshire patients who are at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes are being urged to make changes to their lifestyle to reverse that risk.

About six per cent of Staffordshire's population already has a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, with the number growing year-on-year.

But many of those identified as being at risk of diabetes can take action that could mean they never become diabetic. The estimated cost to the local NHS of treating diabetes in 2015 was £222 million. This is estimated to rise to £273m by 2020 if trends go unaddressed, meaning that costs of treating a largely preventable condition are rising by £10m per year. According to Diabetes UK, being at risk of diabetes is characterised by the presence of blood glucose levels that are higher than normal but not yet high enough to be classed as diabetes.

### Prevent

Those at greater risk are often aged over 45, overweight, and do little physical exercise. Dr Bhushun Rao is the clinical lead for diabetes throughout Staffordshire including Stoke-on-Trent. Speaking during during Diabetes Prevention Week, Dr Rao said: "The good news is that patients identified as being at risk of diabetes can be helped to prevent themselves from developing full blown diabetes.

"The risk can be reversed if identified early, does not need medication and prevention is always the best route to take. Lifestyle changes that include improving diet, quitting smoking, reducing alcohol intake, exercising regularly, and losing weight all play a part."

"We are now developing programmes specifically aimed at the estimated 27,500 Staffordshire patients with pre-diabetes." To find out more, visit [www.diabetes.org.uk/risk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/risk)

## Valuation experts in return to hall



Auctioneer and valuer Dave Eglington with the Edwin Masters painting taken to Sandon Hall's last valuation event

AUCTION house Cuttlestones is to return to Staffordshire stately home Sandon Hall with the second of its free antique and collectable valuation events.

Experts from Cuttlestones, which has salerooms in both Penkridge and Wolverhampton, will be on hand to assess a wide range of artefacts between 11am and 3pm on May 3. The first in the series of events attracted a large crowd, with a number of items taken

in for valuation. Among the most valuable was an oil on canvas by the 19th Century British artist Edwin Masters, depicting a farmyard scene with figures and animals presented in a gilt frame.

It has now been consigned into Cuttlestones' fine art sale at Penkridge on Friday, June 8 carrying an estimate of £2,000 to £4,000. To find out more about Cuttlestones auctions visit [www.cuttlestones.co.uk](http://www.cuttlestones.co.uk)

## Firms helped in HS2 bids

A PROGRAMME to help regional businesses benefit from HS2 and other public sector contracts is being rolled out after a successful pilot scheme.

Get on Track was launched by the West Midlands Manufacturing Club (WMMC), part of the Wolverhampton University's business solutions centre.

It aims to help companies improve the way they bid for tenders by giving them a clearer understanding of the opportunities available and improving their knowledge of the tendering process. It success-

fully piloted last year with 13 businesses taking part.

Rebecca Macdonald, from the WMMC, said: "The common misconception is that HS2 is only open to major players.

"Get On Track has been specifically designed to make the opportunity more accessible to Midlands SMEs, equipping them with the know-how and more importantly the confidence to tap into the wealth of opportunities HS2 can present for them too. The course helps overcome many common barriers SMEs face to winning contracts, like a lack of knowledge about the process or feeling it is onerous."

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# Reveller locked up after attack

A MAN who seriously injured another clubber with a single punch while fuelled by alcohol and cocaine has been locked up. Riley Chapman, described as 'of exemplary character', assaulted his victim in the street after a night out in Walsall town centre, a court heard.

The 20-year-old approached the victim, who was about to get into a taxi, and struck him in the face so hard he fell backwards, hitting his head on the pavement. Mr John O'Higgins, prosecuting, said the pair had previously been in Bar Sport where there had been 'pushing and shoving' between two groups of youths.

However, there was no suggestion that Chapman was involved. The victim was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital where doctors found three fractures to his skull and a bleed on the brain. He was allowed home after a week but continued to suffer repercussions.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that he lost his sense of smell and taste, affecting his job at Travelodge where he carried out cooking duties as well as working on reception. It meant he could no longer work in the kitchen and that his hours were reduced. He was also easily exhausted and had become depressed.

In a victim impact statement read to the court he told how the financial burden and lack of future prospects had put a strain on his marriage.

Chapman, of Thames Road, Blakenall, pleaded guilty to wounding and possession of crack cocaine.

Defending, Mr Oliver Woolhouse said Chapman had not intended to cause serious harm and had expressed remorse. The judge was given several glowing references confirming his good character. Sentencing him to 10 months' detention, Judge James Burbidge said members of the public had to feel safe from attack.

## Dog owners alerted over parasite threat



Will Jeffels - 'prevention is the key'

TWO serious cases of potentially fatal parasite lungworm - including one in Staffordshire - have prompted a vets to issue an urgent warning to dog owners across the region.

The Act against Lungworm website shows that the parasite is now endemic throughout much of the UK, although cases in the Staffordshire area have so far been rare.

Now two incidents - one in Gnosall, the other in Stoke - have triggered a swift reaction from Will Jeffels, clinical director at Shires Vets. He said: "Prevention is the key, and there are some very simple measures that dog owners can take. The main one is to be aware of the threat of slugs, snails and frogs which can all carry the lungworm larvae."

"Dogs can become infected if they eat them, or even if they eat infected grass or drink infected water."

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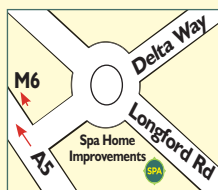
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# One in three children are living in poverty

**MORE** than one in three youngsters across the Black Country are living below the poverty line, according to new figures.

A total of 94,212 children in the region's four boroughs are classed as living in poverty – 34 per cent – prompting calls for ministers to urgently review cuts to child welfare. The figures show that in Sandwell 36.5 per cent of youngsters were below the breadline, while in Walsall it was 36.21 per cent and 35.37 per cent of Wolverhampton children live in struggling households. In Dudley the figure was 28.63 per cent.

Across parts of Staffordshire around one in eight children live below the poverty line. The figures were sourced by the Liberal Democrats using government data on family tax credits, benefits and incomes.

Nick Machnik-Foster, a campaigner for the party in Wolverhampton, said it was concerning that so many families were living below the breadline.

### Compared

"I fear these youngsters will end up stuck in the poverty trap for life if urgent action is not taken," he said, adding that he wanted to see a child poverty action plan put in place to tackle the issue.

Nationally, new Government statistics show that 4.1 million children are now living in poverty compared with four million the previous year.

Labour MP Margaret Greenwood, the shadow work and pensions secretary, said: "No child should be forced to grow up in poverty."

The Government says that the number of children living in 'absolute poverty', which measures what people are living on in relation to a fixed median income, has fallen.

"We know there is more to do to ensure that every child gets the best chances in life," minister for family support, housing and child maintenance, Kit Malthouse said.

## Arts group marks its 50th



Guest speaker Will Farmer from The Antiques roadshow celebrates with society chair Glenys King

AN arts group was joined by an expert from the Antiques Roadshow to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Will Farmer, from the long-running BBC show, was guest speaker at a dinner organised by the Arts Society Wolverhampton.

The event took place at South Staffordshire Golf Club on Wednesday last week.

Will's talk, called Lost and Found, looked at antique gems missed by auctioneers that have been picked up at bargain prices and sold on for big profit.

Val Billings, the club's secretary, said: "Will Farmer was very good and very well received – we just couldn't stop clapping at the end."

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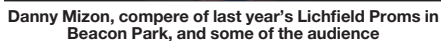
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# Two companies scoop three business awards

TWO companies have walked off with three of the trophies at Birmingham's biggest business awards event.

Civil engineering specialists Crown Highways, based at Chasetown, and Burntwood incinerator manufacturer Addfield are celebrating after beating off rivals in the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) awards.

There was a double win for Addfield Environmental Systems – awards for both Excellence in International Business and Manufacturing.

Based on Burntwood Business Park, the company has grown from employing four people in 2010 to a workforce of 52. It manufactures incinerator equipment used to deal with medical waste as well as disposing of fish and animal carcasses, including supplying pet cemeteries.

It has secured a string of international orders, including its biggest to date, supplying 13 medical waste incinerators to Pakistan. All the equipment is manufactured at Addfield's factory in Burntwood.

Operations director Derek Carr said: "When we found we had been seated right at the back we thought we were unlikely to win anything, so it was quite a shock."

Crown Highways was awarded the Excellence in Technology & Innovation award. The company was formed in 1994 and has been delivering services on the nation's highways for many years, including street lighting, civil engineering, technology and drainage. It now employs more than 120 people nationwide.

The award followed Crown's journey in introducing new technologies to the highways market place such as traffic counting radar systems, EV car charging, tyre pressure monitoring systems and underground cable monitoring equipment. Mike Dale, managing director of Crown Highways, said: "We are immensely proud." to receive

## Cyclists set for a wild ride



Julian Woolford, CEO of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, looks forward to the Ride the Roaches event Picture: Tim Sturges

CYCLISTS of all abilities are being invited to get on their bikes and take part in a sportive.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's first ever Ride the Roaches event is taking place on September 2.

Riders can sign up to take part in the sportive, which starts at the trust's Wolseley Bridge headquar-

ters, near Rugeley. Money raised from the event will go towards the trust's conservation work across the county.

Courses have been designed by professionals at Ride Ventures.

To enter and for further details of the event visit [staffs-wildlife.org.uk/RideTheRoaches](http://staffs-wildlife.org.uk/RideTheRoaches)

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## Firm now has 'cyber champion'

A COMPANY has appointed a 'cyber champion' in association with the police to see off online fraud.

Prizm Solutions is the first company to sign up to the initiative launched by Staffordshire Police.

The firm, based in Tamworth, now has a designated cyber champion, who receives free training to help stay a step ahead of online fraudsters.

The initiative was launched by Staffordshire's Online Fraud Forum.

Last year, online fraud and cybercrime was estimated to have cost £11 billion and fraudsters are increasingly targeting businesses large and small nationally.

For more information about the scheme email [pcc@staffordshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:pcc@staffordshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk)

# Total fibre broadband nears 100pc coverage

**ALMOST 100 per cent of the Cannock Chase district now has near total fibre broadband coverage.**

The Superfast Staffordshire programme has helped to enable 99.3 per cent of the district to connect to speeds of 24mbps and above – enough to stream ultra-high definition videos or download 200 photos in less than a minute.

The scheme is run by Staffordshire County Council with Openreach and the Government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programme.

More than 96 per cent of the county can now access high speed fibre broadband – however, the Superfast Staffordshire project team is urging more people to discover the benefits of high-speed broadband as just over half of those homes and businesses able to



Mark Winnington – 'essential'

connect to a superfast service have yet to do so.

Councillor Mark Winnington, the county council's economic growth leader, said: "Access to superfast

broadband is essential to every resident and business in Staffordshire and across the UK.

"Connectivity enables people to live independently and grow more prosperous whilst boosting economic growth and productivity."

So far, Superfast Staffordshire has enabled around 75,000 households and businesses to connect to superfast broadband speeds.

The figure rises to more than 478,000 when combined with fibre roll-out under commercial programmes.

Some of the latest areas to get connected are Morston Court in Cannock; Prospect Village; Blithbury, Brereton Cross, Brocton, Clifford's Wood, Copmere End and Wetwood, where the technology has become available for the first time, as well as additional areas of Alrewas, Derrington and Essington.

## Opticians look into awareness



Sue, optical assistant, and Matt, dispensing optician

AN opticians went a step further to carry out their own research during World Glaucoma Week.

Opticians around the country helped to raise awareness of glaucoma but Rugeley Specsavers, in Upper Brook Street, found out what local residents knew about the condition.

Staff surveyed 35 passers-by during the week, asking a few simple questions and checking if they could read a car number plate from 20 metres – as checked in the UK driving test. As glaucoma is a progressive condition, damage is often sustained before a change is noticed.

Store director Minal Naik said: "We thought we'd try something a little different. We wanted to gather data from Rugeley residents."

"The research is specific to our town and shows there is work to be done to raise awareness and make sure everyone has an eye test at least every two years."

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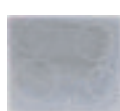
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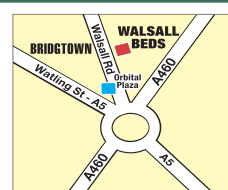
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# Warning after rogue builders prosecuted

ROGUE builders have been warned they face prosecution for rip-off prices and shoddy or unfinished work.

The warnings follow two successful prosecutions - including a roofer from Cheslyn Hay who was given a suspended sentence at Worcester Crown Court for carrying out unnecessary work at the properties of two elderly Kidderminster residents.

Brad Birch, aged 20, of Streets Lane, was sentenced to 16 months in prison, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to carry out a further 200 hours of unpaid work and pay compensation totalling £15,652 to his victims.

He admitted two counts under the Fraud Act 2006 and four counts under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 in relation to work he carried while trading under the name BB's Roofing. In mitigation, counsel said he was 18 when the offences were committed and had set up his own company without any training or real understanding of how to run a business.

## Payments

In another case, a Kidderminster builder was sentenced to 24 months in prison after leaving a string of unfinished jobs. Neil Cronin, 51, of Chapel Court, Kidderminster had previously admitted 18 counts under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 while trading as NJC Home Improvements.

An investigation by Worcestershire Trading Standards Service revealed that Cronin took substantial payments for work he failed to complete.

Councillor Lucy Hodgson, Worcestershire County Council cabinet member with responsibility for communities, said: "The work of our Trading Standards Officers often goes unnoticed. However, this case shows how vital their work is."

## Accolade for care group



Busy Bees co-founder Marg Randles - 'the ultimate accolade'

BURNTWOOD-BASED childcare provider Busy Bees has received the inaugural Queen's Award for Enterprise: Promoting Opportunity.

The royal accolade, in honour of the Queen's 93rd birthday, recognises the organisation's social mobility programme and commitment to quality training for its early years apprentices. The first Busy Bees nursery was opened in 1984 by six teachers who wanted to make a difference in the early years sector.

It cares for 50,000 children in the UK, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia and China. Co-founder Marg Randles said: "Receiving the Queen's Award is the ultimate accolade."

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## Saddlers man really proud of sister Alice



**Athletic genes: Commonwealth gymnast Alice Kinsella and Walsall footballer Liam Kinsella**

WALSALL FC footballer Liam Kinsella says he is 'really proud' of his sister Alice after her achievements at the Commonwealth Games. Gymnast Alice won a gold, a silver and a bronze medal at the Gold Coast Games.

It was the 17-year-old's first Commonwealth Games, and 22-year-old Saddlers man Liam said: "The family are well proud of her. I couldn't wait to see her to give her a big hug and say well done. She got the gold on beam – I had to get up at 6.45am to watch it but it was worth it."

"She got silver in the team event all-round and bronze in the individual all-round, so she's doing very well."

"She's been doing gymnastics since she was five or six years old and this is what she has been working towards."

"She practises five days a week and does so many hours – probably 36 to 40 hours a week – and the hard work has paid off."

"She has waited so long for this opportunity and to go to the Commonwealth Games and get those medals, I'm really proud of her."

## Terror chief sacked after secret papers are stolen

**A TOP counter-terrorism officer who had secret documents stolen from his car has been sacked – but he will keep his pension.**

West Midlands Assistant Chief Constable Marcus Beale's pension became active two weeks before the decision to dismiss him. He will receive a tax-free lump sum thought to be around £215,000.

The sacking decision by Chief Constable Dave Thompson was on recommendation of a disciplinary panel, which found him guilty of gross misconduct.

Mr Beale, aged 54, had left the classified documents, which included minutes from a high-level counter-terror meeting, in a briefcase in his car.

He parked the vehicle at a railway station while on a weekend away and at a supermarket while he was out shopping. The theft was discovered by Mr Beale, when he stopped at a service station on his way to Oxford, five days after being given the documents.

At the hearing, Mr Thompson said: "The conduct in this case is a se-

**By Alex Ross**

rious criminal conviction for improperly caring for documents. I agree (with a previous disciplinary panel decision) that the misconduct in this case is serious."

Mr Beale, who was to retire from the force on April 28, pleaded guilty last year to an offence under the Official Secrets Act, and was fined £3,500. Mr Beale's counsel, John Beggs QC, had argued his dismissal would have been 'merely symbolic' in light of the officer's imminent retirement.

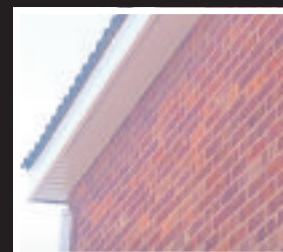
But Mr Thompson dismissed him, following the recommendation of the panel, after finding him guilty of gross misconduct.

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# Voters ready to decide after a year of change

## FULL LIST OF CANDIDATES

(\* denotes sitting councillor)

**Brereton and Ravenhill**  
Paul Fisher (Lib Dem)  
Lorraine North\*  
way (Cons)  
Jaqueline Prestwood (Lab)  
Sarah Thomas-Dean (UKIP)

**Cannock East**  
Arlette Carmichael (Green)  
Muriel Davis (Lab)\*  
Mick Howes (UKIP)  
Johnny McMahon (Cons)

**Cannock North**  
Frank Allen (Lab)\*  
Peter Kruskonjic (Cons)  
Jodie Winter (Green)

**Cannock South**  
John Dawkins (Cons)  
Scarlett Ward (Green)  
Kev Whittaker (UKIP)  
Paul Witton (Lab)\*

**Cannock West**  
Edmund Frondigoun (Lab)  
Maire Smith (Green)  
Hyra Sutton (Cons)\*

**Etching Hill and The Heath**  
Pat Ansell (Lib Dem)  
Michael Sheridan (Green)  
Paul Startin (Cons)\*  
Jeffrey Winter (Lab)

**Hawks Green**  
Eloise Cropp (Green)  
Phil Hewitt (Cons)\*

Josh Mills (Lab)  
Dave Percox (UKIP)

**Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury**  
Kenny Beardmore (Green)  
Les Bullock (Lab)  
Martyn Buttery (Cons)

**Hednesford Green Heath**  
George Adamson (Lab)\*  
Mary Dean (UKIP)  
Bryan Jones (Cons)  
Andrea Muckley (Green)  
Ronald Turville (Indep)

**Hednesford North**  
Sheila Cartwright (Lab)\*  
Mandy Dunnett (Green)  
Wendy Yates (Cons)

**Norton Canes**  
Adrienne Fitzgerald (Cons)  
John Preece (Lab)\*  
Glen Tapper (Green)

**Rawnsley**  
Aaron Bate (Lab)  
Mick Jackson (UKIP)  
Val Jones (Cons)  
Claire Wilkinson (Green)

**Western Springs**  
Ken Ansell (Lib Dem)  
Kieran Green (Lab)  
Mick Grocott (Indep)\*  
Olivia Lyons (Cons)

**VOTERS in the Cannock Chase district will head to the polls on May 3 to elect councillors to 13 of the authority's 15 wards.**

There are no elections in Hagley and Hednesford South this time around.

Labour currently runs the council under leader George Adamson, who defends his Hednesford Green Heath seat this year.

The party holds 21 of the 41 seats available, giving it the most slender of majorities.

The Conservatives have 13 seats, the Greens have two, while the Lib Dems and UKIP have one seat each. There are three independent councillors.

There have been a number of significant developments on the council over the last 12 months.

Hawks Green councillor Martyn Buttery quit his role as UKIP group deputy leader to join the Tories last July. He will contest Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury at these elections. Etching Hill and The Heath councillor Stephanie Whitehouse made the same move, and Councillor Maureen Freeman, who represents Cannock South, left Labour to become an independent.

Last year also saw two by-elections in the district.

Labour's Linda Tait won Hednesford Green Heath from the Tories, a seat which had become available after Tory Joanne Christian had been thrown off the council for failing to attend meetings.

Stuart Crabtree of the Green Party won Hednesford South, the former seat of Conservative group deputy leader Graham Burnett, who died earlier in the year.

This year Labour is defending six seats, the Tories will defend three, while UKIP, the Lib Dems and an independent candidate will defend one seat each.

The last time this set of seats was contested was in 2014, when the Tories lost four seats, three to UKIP and one to Labour. Voter registration is now closed.

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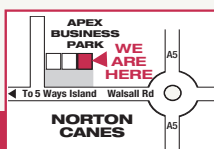
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# Could it be magic? We really hope so

It's one of the most popular new musicals in Britain. The Band tells the story of what it's like to be in a boy band and was written by Tim Firth in conjunction with Take That stars, Gary Barlow, Howard Donald, Mark Owen, Robbie Williams.

The show opened at Manchester Opera House in September to critical and public acclaim. It comes to Birmingham Hippodrome from May 1 to 12.

For five 16 year-old friends in 1992, 'the band' is everything. Twenty five years on, we are reunited with the same group of friends, now 40-something women, as they try once more to fulfil their dream of meeting their heroes.

Tim is delighted it's proven so popular. "The band came about because Gary and I have known each other since pre-Take That. He went and did Take That and we kept in touch and then halfway through, when they first split up, he asked what I thought about doing a musical. I'd done Our House, the Madness musical, which I enjoyed because the lyrics and story worked. There was a story hidden in there.

"At first, I wasn't sure that was the case with Take That. The story and songs didn't match up, so we ditched it.

"And then they got reborn and this whole other catalogue of work emerged. It was bigger, longer and more mature. We were in this unique position of having this longevity with a gap.

"So the idea came up of doing it again and I still said 'no'. But gradually that changed and the story became about a female character, not the band. The words 'Take That' are never mentioned in the show."

## SKETCH

Tim is used to writing hits. He grew up in Warrington before moving to study at Cambridge University, where his contemporaries included David Baddiel and Sam Mendes.

"David's one of my closest friends and he was the year above me. I wrote all the music for his shows and then my own. What Cambridge does is makes you write. Writers learn about writing by writing.

"We're not novelists. If you are writing for production or for sketch or comedy you have to get it out in front of people. The great thing about all universities, not just Cambridge, is that.

"But Cambridge also has a vibrant lineage, which encourages it. And it's so bl\*\*dy big; it's like a small city in terms of colleges so it's very fertile in terms of cross pollination.

"You are meeting people from different backgrounds. I went to a comprehensive school in Warrington and ended up mixing with private school kids and people whose parents were in the business. The truth is, you have to brave it out and realise that you have three years to really use that time. Cambridge was very much a springboard."

One of Tim's biggest hits was Calendar Girls. The play was adapted by Tim from his own film and found favour with audiences across the UK during its 2008/09 tour, and in the process broke the all time British box office record for a play and also continued to sell out during its West End residency.

In 2010, the hit comedy embarked on a UK country wide tour, one of the largest ever for a play.

Tim says: "Calendar Girls is a very unusual piece. It touched people. A large percentage of the audience would have been touched by the brushes with the illness. What is fascinating about it for me is that the most moving part was the second act where people claw their way back to hope. The hope and the challenging of despair with wit, which is what the comedy was all about, really connects. We all know what it's like on stage to watch people suffer and die. That's been there for thousands of years.

"But the resilience of the human spirit and that fight to find light and comedy and repair relationships is the more moving. The audience are responding to hope, rather than despair. The tragedy is very quick in the first act. The

Fab five – The Band features the music of Take That



*The words  
'Take That'  
are never  
mentioned  
in the show*

rest is a gradual ascent into light and optimism and hope.

"When the idea came up for Calendar Girls, there were ideas of middle aged women taking their clothes off for a calendar, which is funny. But it won't get you through a full evening. We sensed there was something else behind it. It's the defiance and the ascent into light. It applies to all people, including those not stricken with illness. We've all suffered failures, like the break-up of a marriage, and then you have to decide how to react. What made the first one potent was that it was born out of tragedy."

Tim has strong connections with the West Midlands, having participated in courses run by the Arvon Foundation, which is based at the former home of Don't Look Back In Anger playwright, John Osborne, in Shropshire.

"My association with them began when I spent the most important week of time at uni at the Lumb Bank one. I turned up because it was run by Willy Russell, who'd just written Blood Brothers. I wanted to write musicals but we ended up having to write dialogue and I found that I enjoyed it and people laughed.

"When I went to university I went slightly with that wind under my wings. University is full of actors. I also met Sam Mendes there, who directed some of my stuff. I was able to learn very quickly in public what my failings and strengths were."

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Manic Street Preachers



## Preaching resistance with the Manics' 13th album

WELSH rockers Manic Street Preachers hit a lucky 13 with their latest album *Resistance Is Futile* and a tour which brings them to Arena Birmingham tomorrow night (Friday).

Of their first album in four years, the band's Nicky Wire says: "The main themes of *Resistance Is Futile* are memory and loss; forgotten history; confused reality and art as a hiding place and inspiration. It's obsessively melodic, in many ways referencing both the naive energy of Generation Terrorists and the orchestral sweep of *Everything Must Go*."

"After delay and difficulties getting started, the record has come together really quickly over the last few months through a surge of creativity and some old school hard work."

Following the musical departures of 2013's largely acoustic *Rewind the Film* and the electronics of 2014's *Futurology*, *Resistance Is Futile* heralds a return to a classic Manics sound described by the band as "widescreen melancholia".

The songs on the album are the first recorded in the band's new Door to the River studio (near Newport). While not overly fixated by the current news cycle, the album does obliquely confront subjects such as predatory tech companies and the impact of the 2016 referendum on personal relationships.

Support at the city centre venue will be from The Wirral's psychedelic pop/rockers The Coral, who released their eighth album, *Distance Inbetween*, in 2016.

## The heat is on for Cheryl and co



HORMONES and hilarity are the order of the day when a marvellously middle-aged celebrity cast will be featured in a popular musical which is returning to the region.

Following previous sell out UK and Irish Tours, and a triumphant return to Wolverhampton last month, *Menopause the Musical* will be at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre at 4pm and 7.30pm on Saturday. The show will also be staged at The Place in Telford on May 18 at 5pm and 8pm and at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre at 4pm and 8pm on May 24.

Armed with memory loss one-liners and innuendo-laden versions of pop classics, the tour has been filling venues around the UK.

Starring Cheryl Fergison, pictured, who was *EastEnders* favourite Heather Trott, Maureen Nolan, *Casualty*'s Rebecca Wheatley and Hilary O'Neil, from *ITV Copy Cats*, the hysterical musical has entertained and inspired women across the world since 2001.

This hilarious celebration of women and 'The Change', is an all-singing, all-dancing comedy bringing together four women at a department store sale, who on first

appearance have nothing in common. However, the sale of a black lace bra soon stimulates comical female heart-to-hearts on hot flushes, night sweats, chocolate binges and plastic surgery.

Meanwhile, Cheryl Fergison has also been announced as one of the cast for Amanda Whittington's *Ladies Day*, a comedy about a memorable day at the races, being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from July 13 to 28.

Her co-stars in this eagerly-awaited in-house production by the Lichfield Street theatre will include Deena Payne, Viv from *Emmerdale*.

## Plan B heaven sent for Birmingham gig

It's been six years since Plan B, the alias for Ben Drew, pictured, last hit the road for a solo UK tour. Now he's back to preview the release of his new album, *Heaven Before Hell Breaks Loose*, which follows on May 4. The star will headline Birmingham's O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday) for a sell-out show. *Heaven Before Hell Breaks Loose* is the rapper's first new album in eight years. His last record, *The Defamation of Strickland Banks*, hit number one and sold more than a million copies.



## Explore and survive a frozen landscape

Games don't have to be all-action to enthrall, as shown by *Impact Winter*, the new survival game from Bandai Namco/Mojo Bones.

The player takes a God-like view from above as you help Jacob and his team of survivors as they try to survive in a post-apocalypse frozen landscape. The group are holed up in a derelict church and need to venture into the gloomy wintery landscape to find resources to keep them going until the promised rescue mission arrives. You will need wits and strategy, and keep one eye on your health meter, to make it but have help from a robot pal named Ako-Light. Trudging through the snow may not be all that appealing after the winter we just had but *Impact Winter* is an engaging and atmospheric PC game now also launched for PlayStation 4 and Xbox One.

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**Iron Man (Channel 4, 9pm)**  
Arms manufacturer Tony Stark is taken hostage by a terrorist group and realises the weapons his company build have been falling into the wrong hands. Using his engineering skills to construct a hi-tech armoured suit, he manages to escape and then puts the technology to good use in the fight against evil around the world. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr, Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow and Terrence Howard. With Shaun Toub, Jon Favreau, Faran Tahir and Clark Gregg.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairys Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.50** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **6.20** **Ready or Not.** Crumpet the talking dog surprises a passer-by in Stratford, Quinzina quizzes the good people of Blackpool, and Sam and Mark are back in their Gameshow Lift. **6.50** **BBC News.** **7.00** **Regional Programme.** **7.10** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz, with Denise Van Outen and Lydia Bright, Michelle Ackерley and Arthur Smith, Ann Widdecombe and Trevor Honey, and singing duo Foster & Allen. **8.00** **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.40** **Casualty.** Ethan is in danger of crossing a line with Leigh-Anne, while Robyn throws away a present from Glen after he questions whether she is fit to be in work. Bea wakes up in an alley calling for help, which comes in the form of nightclub bouncer Johnny, who initially refuses treatment for his own nasty cut. **9.30** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue over whether they should buy their own home, while Grandad hopes to witness his own funeral. (R) **10.00** **BBC News: Weather.** **10.20** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Southampton at the Vitality Stadium and Swansea City v Chelsea at the Liberty Stadium. **11.45** **The Button.** Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R) **12.15** **Film:** City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold. (1994)

BBC2

**6.15** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengies. **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.45** Flipping Profit. (R) **1.30** Britain's Biggest Warship. (R) **2.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **3.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **5.30** Britain in Bloom. (R) **6.00** **Antiques Road Trip.** Arusha Irvine and Philip Serrell's challenge concludes in Gloucestershire as they take a Victorian marmalade cutter and a 16th-century bronze thimble to auction. (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match concludes and another gets under way. **8.00** **The Forest.** Mark Bonnar narrates a documentary following the people who live and work in Galloway Forest Park, where 600,000 tons of timber is produced every year. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Classic comedy with the Home Guard. (R) **9.00** **Civilisations on Your Doorstep.** In a companion programme to Civilisations, classicist Mary Beard goes in search of extraordinary works of art from all over the world that can be seen in Britain. **10.00** **Performance Live: Akala Presents The Ruins of Empires.** A performance piece by Akala, using animation and emerging technology. **10.30** **The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story.** Andrew watches as the news of the murder of Gianni Versace breaks across the world's media, and he is named publicly as his killer. Last in the series. (R) **11.25** **Snooker: The World Championship.** Highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match was set to come to a finish. Presented by Rob Walker. **12.15** **Snooker: World Championship Extra.** **2.15** Civilisations. (R)

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stars: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** **Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's meetings at Sandown Park, Haydock Park and Leicester. **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **6.15** **Regional Programme; Weather.** **6.30** **Ninja Warrior UK.** Celebrity contestants including McFly's Harry Judd and Paralympian Dan Powell test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK. **7.30** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The comedian hosts the madcap panel show, with Johnny Vegas, Jimmy Osmond, Sue Johnston and Samantha Giles tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the third heat of the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete for the chance to win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance. **9.20** **The Keith & Paddy Picture Show.** Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness recreate Pretty Woman. **9.50** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.05** **Film: Overboard.** (1987) A spoiled heiress suffers amnesia after falling off her yacht and is taken in by a carpenter, who claims to be her husband. Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell. **12.15** Change Your Tune. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **12.25** F1 Meets Jackie Stewart. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from the Baku City Circuit (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.45** Car SOS. (R) **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **The Restoration Man: Best Builds.** George Clarke looks back at four memorable industrial conversions from the programme. A couple in rural Rothbury, Northumberland, battled through ill health to restore the 17th-century Thrum Mill, while two novices took on more than they bargained for with a pair of listed barns in Herefordshire. A free-spirited maverick worked single-handedly to restore an idyllic lochside ice house in Argyll and Bute, and in Hertfordshire, a young family toiled to find the perfect design solution to breathe new life into a Victorian pumping station. (R) **8.00** **Britain's Most Historic Towns.** Alice Roberts tells the story of Tudor England by studying the history of Norwich, learning the harsh reality of religious intolerance and experiencing humiliating Tudor justice. **9.00** **Film: Iron Man.** (2008) Arms manufacturer Tony Stark is taken hostage by a terrorist group and realises the weapons his company build have been falling into the wrong hands. Using his engineering skills to construct a hi-tech armoured suit, he manages to escape and then puts the technology to good use in the fight against evil around the world. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr. **11.25** **Film: The Maze Runner.** (2014) A teen with no memory in an isolated community must find his way through a deadly labyrinth in search of freedom. Sci-fi adventure, with Dylan O'Brien. **1.30** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30** Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union, Gloucester v Bath (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** World's Scariest Animal Attacks. (R) **6.00** **World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera.** A tornado tears a mile-wide path through the city of Moore in Oklahoma, and flash floods in Gleniddig in Cumbria push tonnes of rubble into the village. (R) **7.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. Elsewhere, Stewart and Victor chase £1,000 from a doctor who has defaulted on his payment plan, but they are subjected to abuse and the police are called to a driveway standoff. Plus, two agents try to recover £1,600 worth of goods from the owner of an entertainment company after a wedding day dispute, and in west London, a landlady is owed £9,000 in rent arrears by a young mother. (R) **8.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents Stewart and Elmore face the most challenging eviction of their careers, while Brian and Del chase £2,000 worth of debt owed by a business based in Kent. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Sheffield Wednesday and Hull City v Cardiff City. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Wigan Athletic v AFC Wimbledon and Yeovil Town v Mansfield Town. **10.30** **Film: Dances with Wolves.** (1990) A soldier alone at a remote outpost is adopted into a Sioux tribe during the American Civil War. Oscar-winning Western, directed by and starring Kevin Costner. With Mary McDonnell. **1.35** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Jack the Ripper: Missing Evidence. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth **8.00** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **9.00** Salamander: Blood Diamonds **10.35** Land of the Lost Wolves **11.35** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.05** Jeff Beck: Still on the Run **1.35** Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth **2.35** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **3.35** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.45** Britain's Got More Talent **12.45** Ninja Warrior UK **1.45** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **3.25** Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.45** Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **5.45** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **8.45** FYI Daily **8.50** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **9.45** FYI Daily **9.50** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **10.45** FYI Daily **10.50** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **11.45** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Plebs **2.25** CelebAbility **3.00** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**12.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.00** Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **5.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** Vera **1.05** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**12.50** Film: Chisum (1970) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** Film: Chisum (1970) **3.05** Merry Christmas Mr Bean **3.35** Mr Bean **4.10** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **6.25** Film: Moonraker (1979) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: Moonraker (1979) **9.00** Film: Safe House (2012) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Safe House (2012) **11.20** Film: American Gangster (2007) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: American Gangster (2007) **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** The Goldbergs **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** Young Sheldon **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **10.30** The Inbetweeners: Fan Favourites **1.15** Gogglebox **2.20** Tattoo Fixers **3.15** Rude Tube **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.50** Rude(ish) Tube  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **1.00** The Book of Life (2014) **2.50** Multiplicity (1996) **5.05** Enemy Mine (1985) **7.10** Chronicle (2012) **8.50** Best Film Interview Special **9.00** Non-Stop (2014) **11.05** Horns (2013) **1.25** The Raven (2012) **3.40** Close

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CHOICE



Bob Hawkins

**Britain's Biggest Warship (BBC2, 8pm)**  
The crew of HMS Queen Elizabeth completes the vessel's sea trials, testing an innovative new firefighting system for the first time and marking the 100th anniversary of a plane being successfully landed on a moving ship. The carrier returns to Portsmouth, which will be its home port for the next 50 years, while the pilots of its fighter jets go to the US for additional training. Last in the series.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Rip Off Britain: Food. (R) **1.00** 580 News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** The Truth About Obesity. (R) **3.00** Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.  
**6.00** **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles present the semi-final from Glasgow, where the contestants must demonstrate their skill at capturing movement by painting athletes in action. For the first challenge, they must depict an endurance runner and a cyclist, while the final test involves gymnast's floor and beam routines.  
**7.00** **Countryfile.** Matt Baker is in Cornwall, where he meets a blind man walking from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for charity, planning to catch the first day of spring at each point of his journey. Ellie Harrison reports on a project to bring back beavers to the county's riverbanks. Steve Brown goes looking for seasonal marine life, and Tom Heap investigates high rates of suicides among farmers.  
**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce hosts the show from Floors Castle in south-east Scotland, and discovers the story of an American heiress who donated a collection of fine art to the estate.  
**9.00** **The Woman in White.** Laura is forced into marriage to Sir Percival in spite of her love for Walter, and soon realises that her fiancé has a dark side.  
**10.00** BBC News.  
**10.20** Regional Programme.  
**10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Arsenal at Old Trafford and West Ham United v Manchester City at the London Stadium.  
**11.30** **The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.  
**12.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **7.35** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **11.00** Triathlon World Series: Bermuda. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.  
**6.00** **Super Fast Falcon.** The peregrine falcon is the fastest animal on earth, able to reach speeds of more than 200mph. But what does it take to be a high-speed record-breaker? This documentary follows a young family of falcons as they grow up in Chicago. It also meets renowned bird handler Lloyd Buck as he puts his peregrines to the test, using state-of-the-art technology. He also trains one young peregrine for the ultimate challenge of speed and agility, racing an Olympic skier in the Swiss Alps. (R)  
**7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the final session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continue.  
**8.00** **Britain's Biggest Warship.** The crew of HMS Queen Elizabeth completes the sea trials and returns to Portsmouth, while the pilots of the fighter jets go to the US for additional training. Last in the series.  
**9.00** **My Year with the Tribe.** Will makes his final two trips to Korowai territory and attends a traditional festival. On his return to the village, he finds himself in a dangerous situation. Last in the series.  
**10.00** FamAlam. Comedy sketch show.  
**10.20** **Josh Widdicombe: What Do I Do Now.** A recorded performance of the comedian's show at the Hammersmith Apollo, in which he vents his frustration at everything from an overflowing shower to his contactless debit card. (R)  
**11.20** **Snooker: The World Championship.** The concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continued. Presented by Jason Mohammad.  
**12.10** Snooker: World Championship Extra.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** ITV News: Weather. (R) **11.40** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **12.55** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **1.55** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **2.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **3.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs – India. (R) **4.00** The Real Camellia: HRH the Duchess of Cornwall. (R) **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)  
**6.00** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The comedian hosts the madcap panel show, with Johnny Vegas, Jimmy Osmond, Sue Johnston and Samantha Giles tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R)  
**6.30** ITV News: Weather.  
**6.45** Regional Programme; Weather.  
**7.00** **Little Big Shots.** Dawn French meets the UK's youngest town crier, a group of Spanish flamenco dancers, a US string trio and a six-year-old who wants to be a surgeon.  
**8.00** **The Durrells.** Henry Miller comes to stay with the family, and stirs up tension among Louisa and her children with his strange behaviour and the controversial content of his books.  
**9.00** **Invitation to a Royal Wedding.** Trevor McDonald and Julie Etchingham present a look ahead to the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, and go behind the scenes on previous royal ceremonies.  
**10.00** ITV News: Weather.  
**10.20** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)  
**11.15** **Last Laugh in Vegas.** The nine British entertainers have spent more than a week rehearsing for their dream gig, but they question whether the show should go on after a tragedy hits Las Vegas. (R)  
**12.10** This Time Next Year. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** Take on the Twisters. (R) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.05** The King of Queens. (R) **6.30** The King of Queens. (R) **6.55** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.55** Eat the Week. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Build Up. A preview of the fourth round of the season. **12.40** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live. The fourth round of the season (Start-time 1.10pm). **3.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the fourth round of the season. **4.30** Car SOS. (R) **5.30** Grand Designs. (R)  
**6.30** Channel 4 News.  
**7.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree continue their renovation of a French chateau, 18 months after the end of the first series. So far, only nine rooms have been renovated and many areas of the 12-acre estate have yet to be looked at – but the project is going to have to start paying for itself soon. They make plans to host weddings on the grounds, while looking ahead to keeping livestock and growing their own crops. Dick takes steps to generate solar power during a hot summer, and turns an old oil tank into a pig roaster. (R)  
**8.00** **The Crystal Maze.** Richard Ayoade guides a team from a school for deaf people through the Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Future zones, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges on their way to the Crystal Dome. Last in the series.  
**9.00** **Homeland.** Saul's mission is given the greenlight. The clock is ticking on the Keane administration. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Marvel.  
**10.05** **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)  
**11.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by David Baddiel and Trevor Noah. Joey Essex is in Dictionary Corner and Alex Horne and the Horne Section help Rachel Riley. (R)  
**12.00** Film: The Voices. (2014) Comedy crime thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds.  
**2.00** Film: Happy Bhag Jayegi. (2016) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Diana Penry. **4.10** Come Dine Champion of Champions. (R) **5.05** Building the Dream. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.25** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.30** Moby. (R) **6.35** Simon. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.10** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.15** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.10** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.40** FIA Formula E. **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Film: Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole. (2010) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Jim Sturgess. **3.30** Film: Zookeeper. (2011) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **4.30** 5 News Update. **4.35** Film: Zookeeper. (2011) Concluded. **5.55** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.  
**7.00** **Biggest Dog in the World.** Documentary meeting three households with Great Danes. Essex woman Claire, whose canine companion is so huge, potential boyfriends do a runner once they see him, a US family who had to supersize their lives to accommodate Rocky, and Welshwoman Julie, who paid a high price for her 20-year canine obsession when her marriage ended. The film also reveals the pros and cons of owning giant dogs, including the crippling costs of more than £12,000 a year, constant care for a pet that cannot be left for longer than four hours at a time and extreme domestic destruction. (R)  
**8.00** **Before They Were Stars.** Part two of two. Dale Winton revisits another selection of archive clips that immortalised popular celebrities' first, ill-adviced forays into the cut-throat world of showbusiness. (R)  
**8.55** 5 News Weekend.  
**9.00** **Greatest TV Talent Show Moments.** Memorable moments from TV talent shows, including Ann Widdecombe on Strictly Come Dancing to Susan Boyle's unexpected success.  
**12.00** Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind-Ups. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Mountain **9.00** Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day **10.00** Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World **11.30** Timeshift: A Day at the Zoo **12.30** How to Be Bohemian with Victoria Coren Mitchell **1.30** Mountain **2.30** Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day **3.30** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.05** Film: Babe (1995) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Babe (1995) **1.55** Film: Twister (1996) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00** Film: Twister (1996) **4.05** Britain's Got Talent **5.25** Britain's Got More Talent **6.25** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **1.35** FYI Daily **1.40** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**11.30** Inspector Morse **4.00** Lewis **6.00** Film: Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide (2003) **8.00** Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was **9.00** The Murder of Stephen Lawrence **11.10** Film: The Constant Gardener (2005) **1.40** Blue Murder **3.15** Road to Avonlea **4.50** George and Mildred **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**  
**6.20** Pawn Stars **6.50** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **9.00** Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **11.40** Film: Maximum Conviction (2012) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45** Film: Maximum Conviction (2012) **1.10** It's Not Rocket Science **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.35** Film: Animals United (2010) **1.30** The Goldbergs **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** Young Sheldon **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Film: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners: Fan Favourites **12.55** The Big Bang Theory **1.55** Rude Tube  
**Film4**  
**11.00** The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) **1.00** Magic in the Water (1995) **3.00** Anastasia (1997) **4.50** Never Been Kissed (1999) **6.55** Home Alone (1990) **9.00** Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation (2015) **11.35** Fifth (2013) **1.30** 52 Tuesdays (2013) **3.50** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### Deadly Dance Mom, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman takes extreme measures to ensure her daughter wins a scholarship to an exclusive dance academy, but the mother of the victim of her scheme will do whatever necessary to protect her own daughter from her rival's evil plan. Thriller, starring Christina Cox and Beverley Mitchell. (2017)

### TUESDAY

#### Running for Her Life, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Amateur triathlete Alison Wynn hires a controversial trainer who uses hypnotherapy as a training technique and begins to improve physically, but the return of repressed memories takes a toll on her family life. Alison's daughter soon grows concerned and works to save her mother from the psychologically-manipulative coach. (2016)

### WEDNESDAY

#### A Daughter's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A grieving widow finds a shoulder to cry on in the form of a charming male nurse, but when her health subsequently begins to fail, her daughter embarks on a dangerous search for the truth about her illness. Drama, starring Emily Osment. (2013)



No Strings Attached, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

### THURSDAY

#### Murder She Baked: A Deadly Recipe, Channel 5, 3.15pm

When a sheriff is killed during election time in small-town Minnesota, local bakery owner Hannah sets out to solve the crime and clear the name of her brother-in-law, who has been falsely accused of the murder. Mystery, starring Alison Sweeney, Cameron Mathison and Barbara Niven. (2016)

### FRIDAY

#### No Strings Attached, BBC1, 11.50pm

Two childhood friends run into each other and end up sleeping together. Neither of them is interested in committing to a relationship, so they agree to keep things purely sexual. But despite their best efforts, they start to fall in love. Romantic comedy, starring Natalie Portman, Ashton Kutcher, Kevin Kline, Cary Elwes, Greta Gerwig, Lake Bell, Olivia Thirlby and Chris 'Ludacris' Bridges. (2011)

# Eight more singletons begin their journey to find love

For many nine-to-five urbanites caught in the rat race, countryside living is just a pipe dream. But could falling in love be the key to making that dream a reality?

In this new series, Sara Cox is going back to her farming roots in the hope of helping single people living and working in Britain's rural areas find love with urbanites also seeking their perfect partner – as well as a dramatically different lifestyle.

A reliance on the land for their livelihoods, and being based within small rural communities, has limited a lot of countryside singletons' chances of finding love and someone to share the stunning scenery with.

Over the next six weeks we will get to know Paul, a farmhand from Worcestershire, and fellow thirtysomethings Christine and Richard, both cattle and sheep farmers from Dumfries and Galloway.

They are joined by Ed, 25, a dairy farmer from Lancashire, plus farrier

Mark from Norfolk, Wendy, a pig farmer from Herefordshire, and Yorkshire farmer Pete, who are all in their 50s.

Equine vet Heather, 28, from Yorkshire completes the line-up.

All eight have posted their dating profiles online in the hope of attracting urban singles.

On the other side of the coin, there are a growing number of city dwellers longing to escape the smoke and migrate from town to country every year.

It all sounds very tempting, but what is the reality of adapting to a new back-to-basics setting away from all the trappings of a town or city?

Cox joins the potential couples as they negotiate getting to know each other, while the urban love-seekers grapple with wellies, the wild outdoors and woeful Wi-Fi.

"As a farmer's daughter living in the capital I'm really excited about uniting rural folks with people from the city," the 43-year-old presenter, who spent her formative years living on her family's farm in Little Lever,

near Bolton, before pursuing a broadcasting career in the bright lights of London, says.

"I can't wait to journey over hill and dale, through Britain's glorious countryside on my mission to hopefully help love blossom for the people who work the land, lovingly tend their animals but may have neglected their own hearts.

"It's definitely tough living and working as a farmer," added the mother-of-three.

"You have to work such long hours on the farm and if you are in the middle of nowhere, it doesn't leave much time to go out looking for love.

"Obviously whomever you do find has to realise that farming is a vocation, you've got to love it and love the land.

"It's a big responsibility, it's hard work and you've got a lot of animals or crops to look after. Love In the Countryside is such a brilliant idea..."

So once the singletons have been matched up, will the change in pace be everything the city dwellers had always imagined?



Love In the Countryside, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

### MONDAY

#### Tricks of the Restaurant Trade

##### Channel 4, 8.30pm

New series. The return of the programme that offers an inside guide to eating out, providing insights, investigations and campaigns to improve viewers' dining experience. In the first edition, Simon Rimmer finds out about Starbucks' research and development programme and meets the people who decide what its customers will be eating and drinking in the future. A woman and her son test whether phone apps can speed up service, and reporter Adam Pearson hits the high street with the latest trend in bottled water.

### TUESDAY

#### My F-ing Tourette's Family

##### Channel 4, 9pm

One in 100 children have some form of Tourette's Syndrome - that is the same amount as children with autism. But despite it being relatively common condition, the general public know very little about it. For example, less than 10 per cent of people with Tourette's swear (that is known as coprolalia), and no two people with TS will have the same tics - each person is as different as every snowflake. This documentary should hopefully raise awareness and educate the public more about Tourette's, which was

named after French physician Gilles De La Tourette and is an inherited neurological disorder five times more likely to affect males than females. Cameras follow Hayley and Richard Davies-Monk, and their sons Spencer, 13, and Lewis, nine. They're an Oxfordshire family who confront the daily challenges of living with the boys' uncontrollable physical and verbal 'tics' that can include inappropriate or taboo phrases.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport

##### ITV, 8pm

The second-busiest airport in the world (in terms of international passengers) opens its arrivals gates once more for the ITV cameras, demonstrating the challenges faced by both staff and passengers as they go about their business of either getting where they need to go, or checking that those passing through are in safety and obeying the rules. In tonight's opening episode of the fourth series, passenger experience manager Demi has a hard time placating some disgruntled travellers, and check-in attendants Carrie-Anne and Selina have some broken baggage belts to

contend with. And a young Brazilian student wants to enter the UK to visit his brother, presenting Border Force agent Bob with a dilemma.

### THURSDAY

#### Britain's Best Home Cook

##### BBC1, 8pm



Britain's Best Home Cook, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

Mary Berry is back on the box. Not that it feels as if she's ever been away. Some may have thought that her TV career would slow down after The Great British Bake Off moved to Channel 4 without her, but not a bit of it. Instead, she's become one of the BBC's major faces, and its bosses are hoping she can turn this new series into a success. Claudia

Winkleman hosts, while Berry heads a judging panel that also includes chef Dan Doherty and omnipresent produce expert Chris Bavin. Ten talented home

cooks enter the competition tonight, desperate to prove they're the best in Britain. They'll be challenged to prepare classic dishes, often with their own personal spin, with the least impressive asked to leave the contest each week.

### FRIDAY

#### Our Wildest Dreams

##### Channel 4, 8pm

Cameras follow Lyndon and his pregnant wife Ruth as they give up their careers in the UK to plough their life savings into starting a new business running a safari lodge in the Zambian outback. The couple soon find themselves in primitive conditions, surrounded by deadly lions, elephants and crocodiles.

### Lethal Weapon

#### ITV, 9pm

The LAPD finds itself on the hunt for a thief from a local jewellery heist. Even though the case may look fairly pedestrian from the outset, Riggs and Murtaugh soon get a reminder that all that glitters is not gold and suddenly this straightforward looking case begins to evolve into something deeper. Murtaugh is erroneously called 'grandpa' by another parent while at the playground, sending him into a spiral of insecurity.



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# BRAIN GYM

No.477

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

16	25	26	8	3	7	13	22	25	13	15	20
18			11		18		15		18		4
9			6	18	25	14	22	8	21	8	20
10	8	9	18		22		3		8		15
	18		17		3		12		23		25
	19	18	18	5	17	1	26		18	1	21
6		2				21			24		11
25	R	1	11	6		20	4	22	11	13	18
15	O			22		4		3		15	1
11			2	25		2		19	8	12	5
6	4	26	21	8	15	2	15	7	26		20
20			1	3		1		18		26	
21	20	1	25	9	18		17	1	25	5	2

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
X	T	Z	G	J	U	P	S	C	H	V	Y	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	D	M	O	L	I	A	W	N	R	B	E	Q

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- 1 & 21Ac. Flimsy beam beneath the track is one that's easily stirred (5,7)
- 4 & 8Ac. It's delivered after somebody has departed (7,7)
8. See 4 Across.
9. You'll find me leaving unusual memento for the artist (5)
10. Part of the rosary, we hear, for ancient monk (4)
11. What the ringers make, sounds like a stupid mistake (8)
13. Masses of boisterous scoundrels make them, initially (4)
14. Unfinished antic to cause astonishment (4)
16. As a flag raiser, he comes second (6-2)
17. Even contest to attract the crowds? (4)
20. The vessel 'Cathy' capsized (5)
21. See 1 Across.
22. Don't expend so much - it's futile (7)
23. Staffs living in eastern Europe (5)

#### Down

- 1 & 19Dn. Sound advice for bounders (4,6,3,4)
- 2 & 4Dn. Certainly not a poor start to the show (5,6)
3. Neat cut (4)
4. See 2 Down.
5. Propose for the post when there's a main change in correspondence (8)
6. Sprinted to make progress in Burma (7)
7. The output of a book factory! (8,5)
12. Certainly not one in attendance (8)
13. Handcuff Maclean somehow (7)
15. Gives patient attention (6)
18. Drive back the first of the protesters in the film (5)
19. See 1 Down.

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
10						11						
						12						
			13					14				
16									17	18		
									19			
20						21						
22								23				

### Quick Clues:

#### Across

1. Covetousness (5)
4. Bevel (7)
8. Attribute (7)
9. Hurl (5)
10. Uninteresting (4)
11. Familiarise (8)
13. Average (4)
14. Hitch (4)
16. Swamp (8)
17. Overtake (4)
20. Dodge (5)
21. Outlive (7)
22. Disloyalty (7)
23. Squeeze (5)

#### Down

1. Bombastic (13)
2. Surpass (5)
3. Platform (4)
4. Close tightly (6)
5. Wealthy (8)
6. Fault (7)
7. Piety (13)
12. Innocuous (8)
13. Degree (7)
15. Jail (6)
18. Nimble (5)
19. Grasp (4)

## Sudoku

		6		5	4		9	
3		2		6			7	
	5		7			6		8
5					6	7		
	4	9		3				
		7	5				8	9
7		1					4	
	8			7		5		2
9		2		3				

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	5	3	2	9	8	6	7
8	9	3	4	6	7	5	2	1
6	7	2	5	8	1	9	4	3
9	4	8	6	1	5	3	7	2
5	3	1	9	7	2	4	8	6
3	8	7	1	9	6	2	5	4
1	6	4	2	5	8	7	3	9
2	5	9	7	4	3	6	1	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Profusion; 8 Elan; 9 Slowcoach; 10 Formal; 11 Asses; 14 Rifle; 15 Rapt; 16 Stabs; 18 Ewer; 20 Cadet; 21 Reach; 24 Tailor; 25 Cracked up; 26 Oslo; 27 Come round.  
Down: 1 Performer; 2 Fair offer; 4 Roll; 5 Fawns; 6 Sooner; 7 Once; 9 Sales; 11 Awash; 12 Sandglass; 13 Stateroom; 17 Scrap; 19 Rescue; 22 Credo; 23 Ergo; 24 Turn.  
QUICK - Across: 3 Statement; 8 Form; 9 Animation; 10 Energy; 11 Pored; 14 Mince; 15 Rent; 16 Event; 18 Toss; 20 Arise; 21 Scope; 24 Demand; 25 Diversion; 26 Mean; 27 Defendant.  
Down: 1 Aftermath; 2 Greenness; 4 Tiny; 5 Tempo; 6 Matter; 7 Noon; 9 Agree; 11 Piece; 12 Dedicated; 13 Attendant; 17 Tangle; 19 Scheme; 22 Posed; 23 Hide; 24 Down.

## Quiz

1. Of what is a pascal a unit?
2. Which Hindu festival's name means 'garland of lamps'?
3. What are the names of Gemini's twins?
4. Which Red Indian tribe has the largest reservation in the USA?
5. What does the legal term 'sub judice' mean?
6. Where are the annual Diamond Challenge Sculls held?
7. Which royal turned down the part of Boadicea in a Ken Russell film?
8. Which singer was born Asa Yoelson?
9. What type of pet is the Mongolian jird?
10. What is the fruit of the Prunus armeniaca tree?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Liz Taylor; 2 Egypt; 3 Yesterday;  
4 A bird; 5 Iona; 6 January 6 ; 7 Dance;  
8 Manna; 9 Thailand; 10 1956.

Niner: MISQUOTED

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

974329  
94279  
351678

gives a fish,  
gives a second fish,  
gives a fish soup.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
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## Well-presented four-bedroomed detached house

An impressive detached residence in Station Road, Great Wyrley, lies in a popular residential location and has immaculate, contemporary interiors.

It is for sale through Paul Carr Estate Agents at offers in excess of £350,000.

Having a good-sized garden and driveway parking, its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, entrance hallway, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, a ground floor bedroom, en-suite shower room, a guest WC, four first floor bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate WC.

Ideally located for local amenities, schools and transport links and having immaculate, contemporary interiors, this impressive detached residence would ideally suit a growing family and internal viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate its scope and finish.

The accommodation includes a welcoming hallway with a guest WC off and engineered wood flooring which continues through to the light and spacious lounge. This has an open fireplace and double doors leading in to the separate dining room with French doors overlooking the rear garden.

A further doorway leads in to the superb kitchen with a range of units, granite worktops, splash-backs and flooring, a variety of integrated appliances and a doorway giving access to the rear garden and useful utility room. Completing the ground floor, the garage has been converted into a luxury bedroom suite with ample storage and an en-suite shower room.

To the first floor there are three further bedrooms, all of which are generous doubles, and the stunning family bathroom has a wash basin, roll-top bath, shower cubicle and integrated television and a separate WC.

Outside the rear garden is laid mainly to lawn with mature shrubs and trees, decked and paved seating areas and there is ample off-road parking to the front.

GREAT WYRLEY £350,000



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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Impressive detached

Popular location

4 good bedrooms

Contemporary interior

Good-sized garden



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- CARPORT AND GARAGE



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- LOUNGE AND DINING ROOM
- SOUTH FACING REAR GARDEN

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- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- LARGE MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE



STAFFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

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- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- LARGE DETACHED GARAGE AT REAR
- LARGE REAR GARDEN

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- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- CLOSE TO CANNOCK TOWN CENTRE
- EN-SUITE OFF THE MASTER
- NO UPWARD CHAIN



WALLACE CLOSE, NORTON CANES

- THREE BED DETACHED
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- DUAL ASPECT LOUNGE / DINER
- CONSERVATORY

£160,000



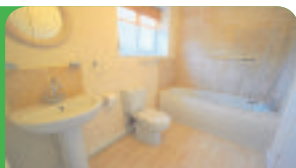
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- REFITTED BATHROOM
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES



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- NO UPWARD CHAIN

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GREAT WYRLEY, LOVE LANE

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- Beautifully presented interiors 1
- Well appointed kitchen D
- Impressive conservatory

Burntwood Office - £270,000



BURNTWOOD, GARRICK RISE

- Detached family residence 4
- Through lounge/diner 1
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom D
- Cul-de-Sac location

Burntwood Office - £245,000



LICHFIELD, BROADBENT CLOSE

- Modern style mid town house 3
- Three storey accommodation 2
- Kitchen / diner B
- Off road parking & garage

Burntwood Office - £240,000



BURNTWOOD, SPRINGHILL ROAD

- Immaculate Dormer Residence 3
- Two/Three Bedrooms 2
- Shower Room & Bathroom C
- Garage

Burntwood Office - £195,000



CHASE TERRACE, NEW PLANT LANE

- Well presented semi 3
- Pleasant Cul-de-Sac location 2
- Lounge / diner. Conservatory D
- Off road parking & garage

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GREAT WYRLEY, LINGFIELD DRIVE

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- Lounge & Family Room
- Refitted Bathroom

Great Wyrley Office - £172,500



CHURCHBRIDGE, NUTHURST DRIVE

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- Two Double Bedrooms 1
- Sought After Location F
- No Upward Chain

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CHASETOWN, HOSPITAL ROAD

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- Requires modernisation 1
- Superb field views E
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CHESLYN HAY, STATION STREET

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- Refurbished throughout G
- No onward chain

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- No Upward Chain

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[www.webbsestateagents.co.uk](http://www.webbsestateagents.co.uk)

\* Terms and Conditions apply.

**REDUCED** **CHESLYN HAY**  
KESTREL WAY



- Reduced For A Limited Time
- Two Storey Extended Link
- Detached
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Conservatory

**\$235,000**

**NEW** **STAFFORD**  
WILLOW CLOSE



- Deceptively Spacious
- Three Bedrooms
- Sought After Location
- Excellent School Catchment
- Lounge
- P Shaped

**\$250,000**

**NEW** **NORTON CANES**  
SPINNEY CLOSE



- Hallway, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Driveway
- Garage

**\$194,950**

**NEW** **CANNOCK**  
PACKINGTON MEWS



- Modern Coach House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Shower Room
- Allocated Parking
- Freehold

**\$100,000**

**NEW** **CANNOCK**  
GLENCOE DRIVE



- Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Refitted Family
- Bathroom, Enclosed Rear Garden
- Detached Garage

**\$135,000**

**REDUCED** **CHESLYN HAY**  
STATION STREET



- Extended Traditional Property
- Set Over Three Floors
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility And Guest Wc
- Cellar

**\$185,000**

**NEW** **HEDNESFORD**  
STEPHENSON WAY



- Link Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Kitchen Diner
- Spacious Lounge
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Single

**\$189,995**

**NEW** **WIMBLEBURY**  
BRISBANE WAY



- Executive Detached
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Master Bedroom
- Dressing Room
- En-suite Bathroom
- Lounge, Dining Room

**\$370,000**

*"Service you expect from the Agent that delivers"*



**flint & co**  
flintandco.com 01543 624400



#### HEATH HAYES DENBURY CLOSE



- A three bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, refitted kitchen/diner
- Three bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden
- Tandem garage
- Driveway
- EPC rating D

**£209,950**

#### HEDNESFORD ANGLESEY COURT



- First floor 1 bedroom apartment
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern fitted bathroom
- Lounge, Study/Storage
- Garage, Allocated parking
- Good Location
- Intercom Entrance
- Must be Viewed
- EPC rating D

**£105,000**

#### CANNOCK NEWHALL STREET



- A two bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and guest cloakroom
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Good sized rear garden
- EPC rating E

**£139,950**

#### WALSALL REMINGTON ROAD



- A two bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen
- Utility, veranda
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Front and rear garden
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating D

**£119,950**

#### HEATH HAYES WOODFORD WAY



- NO CHAIN
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern fitted bathroom
- Lounge/conservatory
- Driveway
- Viewing Essential
- EPC rating C

**£142,000**

#### HEATH HAYES CANNOCK ROAD



- A traditional detached property
- Entrance hallway/study area
- Lounge/diner
- Refitted kitchen/diner
- Utility, Guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with en suite
- Refitted family bathroom
- Garden to rear off road parking
- EPC rating E

**£260,000**

#### CHESLYN HAY STATION STREET



- A traditional two bedroom property
- Lounge, dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Refitted first floor bathroom
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Garden to rear
- Viewing recommended
- Ideal first time buy
- EPC rating G

**£129,950**

#### CANNOCK REDHILL ROAD



- One Bedroom
- Central heating
- Driveway, gated access
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating
- NO CHAIN

**£124,995**

#### CANNOCK ST AIDANS ROAD



- A two bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, refitted kitchen/diner
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garden to front
- Corner plot
- Enclosed rear garden
- Awaiting EPC rating

**£124,950**

#### HEATH HAYES STRAUSS DRIVE



- A spacious four bedroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen, dining room
- Utility, guest cloakroom
- Master with ensuite
- Shower room
- Garden to rear, driveway
- EPC rating C

**£220,000 offers in excess of**

#### CANNOCK MANOR AVENUE



- Spacious three bedroom detached
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room, cloakroom
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating

**£242,000**

#### CANNOCK RUMER HILL ROAD



- A spacious 3 bedroom detached
- Split level lounge/diner, Kitchen/diner
- Guest cloakroom, utility
- Sitting room and conservatory
- Kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear, garage, driveway
- NO CHAIN
- Awaiting EPC rating

**£230,000 Offers Over**

**01543 62 44 00**  
info@flintandco.com  
www.flintandco.com  
fax: 01543 62 44 01



## PROPERTY



## Well-presented detached dormer bungalow on edge of Cannock Chase for sale with no chain

With all reasonable offers invited, this charming three-bedroom detached bungalow in Penkridge Bank Road, Slitting Mill, is for sale through JR Distinctive Homes at £424,995 with no chain.

This well-presented and spacious dormer detached bungalow lies in a semi rural location on the edge of Cannock Chase.

Barton Lodge, as the property is known, has been updated and improved over time by the

### SLITTING MILL £424,995

current vendors and offers flexible accommodation with three bedrooms, two reception rooms, large conservatory, two bathrooms and a breakfast kitchen.

In more detail the entrance hallway has a front door with side panels and stairs off and a storage cupboard.

The lounge is a lovely room, having parquet flooring, attractive half height wood panelling and a wood burner set into a feature brick-built fireplace with a tiled hearth.

The dining room is a large room. It has ample space for a dining room table and chairs, a window to front, a feature fireplace and patio doors to the orangery which has a vaulted glass roof and wooden flooring.

Contact JR Distinctive Homes on 01889 577731.

#### 8 COLLIERS WAY, HUNTINGTON



#### WELL EQUIPED FOUR BEDROOMED MID MEWS HOUSE OFFERING ACCOMMODATION ON THREE FLOORS Located in Popular Position

- Reception Hall & Cloakroom with W/C
- Lounge / Dining Area
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two First Floor Bedrooms
- Two Second Floor Bedrooms
- En Suite Shower Room & Family Bathroom
- Garage & Gardens
- Gas Central Heating & Fully Double Glazed
- Sorry no DSS, pets or smokers
- EPC rating C (79)

**£725pcm**

#### SHOOT LODGE, ACTON PASTURES, TEDDESLEY ROAD, PENKRIDGE



#### A PRIVATE COUNTRY RESIDENCE WITH GROUNDS EXTENDING TO APPROXIMATELY 5.86ACRES (2.37HA) Incorporating Comprehensively Renovated Five Bedroomed Detached Family Residence and Pasture Land

- Utility & cloakroom with W/C
- Characterful lounge
- Impressive dining room with bar
- Luxury fitted kitchen with Aga
- 5 bedrooms
- 5 en suites
- Detached double width garage
- Extensive grounds
- Fishing pool
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC Rating D (63)

**£1950pcm**

19 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 1DG  
**01543 505454**







# Four-bedroom detached family property is on a good-sized plot

NORTON CANES  
£290,000

This well-presented four-bedroomed detached house in Newbury Road, Norton Canes, lies on a good-sized corner plot.

It is for sale through Lovett & Co Estate Agents now at offers over £290,000.

The stand-out features of the property include spacious living and sleeping accommodation, a modern fitted kitchen and bathrooms, an integral garage, parking for two vehicles plus plenty of on-street parking and a private rear garden.

On the ground floor is a reception hallway, a lounge, a fitted kitchen, a dining room, a playroom, a utility, integral garage and guest W/C. On the top floor are four bedrooms with en-suite to master and family bathroom. Externally, is a drive, garage and rear garden.

Contact Lovett & Co on 01543 889410.



# This charming home has been refurbished

BRIDGTOWN  
£195,000

This charming traditional detached home in Park Street, Bridgtown, has recently been fully refurbished to a high standard.

It is for sale through Marwood Homes at £195,000 with no chain.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a welcoming lounge with a marble fireplace, a fantastic modern dining kitchen, a stylish bathroom and three good sized bedrooms with the master having an en-suite. It has an enclosed garden to the rear.

The property is set back from the road, having a forecourt with a reclaimed brick boundary wall.

Contact Marwood Homes on 01543 500700 for details and to book a viewing.

## BRANCH OUT WITH US



Unit 27 Kimberley Business Park, Kimberley Way,  
Brereton, Rugeley WS15 1RE

01889 358172

sales@chaseowlestates.co.uk



GRANGE CLOSE, CONDOVER  
SHREWSBURY

- Village Location
- Investment Property with Tenant in Situ
- One Bedroom Apartment
- Well Presented Throughout

£89,950

# Introductory Offer Sell your Home for £895

Valid until 31st May 2018



TALBOT ROAD  
BRERETON

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Close to Local Amenities
- Ideal First Time Buyer Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Refitted Shower Room

£154,950



RECTORY LANE  
ARMITAGE

- Two Bedroom End Terraced • Well Presented
- Village Location
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Garage with parking

£162,500



PRIORY AVENUE  
HAWKSYARD, RUGELEY

- Three Bedroom Modern Semi Detached
- South Facing Garden
- Breakfast Kitchen
- En Suite to Master Bedroom

£170,000



BURNTHILL LANE  
RUGELEY

- Close to Local Amenities
- Well presented Family Home
- Family Breakfast Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms
- Parking and good garden to rear

£187,500



LODGE ROAD  
BRERETON

- Three/Four Bedroom Detached Home
- Good sized Plot
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bathrooms • Generous Gardens

£245,000



[www.jrpropertiesstaffs.com](http://www.jrpropertiesstaffs.com)

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**JR**  
PROPERTIES

T:01889 577731

E:enquiries@jrpropertiesstaffs.com

Lower Lodge, Armitage

£109,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom mobile home situated on Lower Lodge in Armitage. Offered with No Upward Chain the property has lovely open views from the gardens and parking to front. Accommodation includes hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, gardens

High Street, Colton

£325,000

NEW



● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this refurbished four bedroom semi detached dormer property in the delightful Village of Colton. The accommodation briefly comprises hallway, four bedrooms, two refitted bathrooms, study, refitted large kitchen/dining/living area, utility room, front and rear gardens with detached garage, parking for several vehicles, also offered with No Upward Chain

Finches Hill, Etching Hill

£169,950

STAR BUY



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this refurbished three bedroom semi detached property in a popular location. The property is situated in a quiet cul de sac and is offered with No Upward Chain. Features include a refitted kitchen and bathroom, single garage and gardens to front and rear, viewing essential

Woodheys Lawns, Etching Hill

£159,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this semi detached bungalow situated in a popular location and offered with No Upward Chain. Viewing essential to appreciate the size and layout and all reasonable offers will be considered. Accommodation briefly comprises: Hallway, Kitchen, Lounge, Two bedrooms, Shower Room, Front and Rear gardens

Delafield Way, Etching Hill

£169,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented link detached family home offered with No Upward Chain. The property is located in Etching Hill and must be viewed to appreciate the accommodation in brief comprises hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, carport and front and rear gardens, viewing essential

Birches Valley, Cannock Chase

£285,000

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this rare opportunity to acquire a three bedroom semi detached house in the heart of Cannock Chase-An area of outstanding natural beauty. The property must be viewed to appreciate the accommodation on offer which briefly comprises hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, utility room, three bedrooms

Roseway, Rugeley

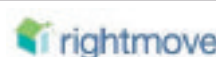
£169,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious and well presented link detached family home. Situated in a quiet cul de sac the property comprises of three bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/ diner and bathroom with garage. Offered with No Upward Chain and all sensible offers will be considered for a quick sale

*"Serving Rugeley and its Villages"*





www.jrpropertiesstaffs.com

25B Horsefair, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2EJ

JR  
PROPERTIES

T:01889 577731

E:enquiries@jrpropertiesstaffs.com

41

The Chronicle Thursday, April 26, 2018

Eaton Drive, Rugeley

£174,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented four bedroom three storey property that offers flexible family accommodation that must be viewed to appreciate. The accommodation includes hallway, guest wc, utility room, open plan living/dining/kitchen, two bathrooms, four bedrooms and garage with parking for numerous vehicles and well maintained rear garden

Mavesyn Close, Hill Ridware

£250,000

NEW

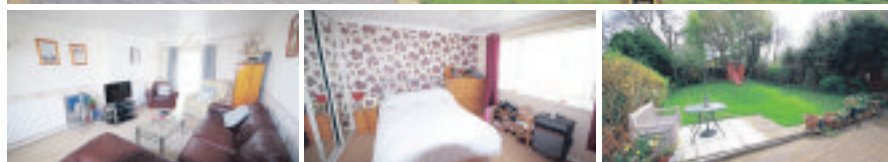


● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this individual designed and presented detached bungalow. The interior accommodation includes an L- shaped reception hall, spacious lounge with double French doors opening onto the rear garden, extended kitchen/dining room, 3 good bedrooms, bathroom with bath and shower. Outside there is a large garage, excellent driveway parking and a delightful private rear garden.

Somerset Avenue, Rugeley

£186,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious and well presented detached family home situated on a large impressive plot with private gardens and plentiful parking. Briefly comprising hallway, guest wc, lounge, kitchen/diner, study, three bedrooms and bathroom, viewing essential

Buckmaster Way, Rugeley

£189,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this exceptionally well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated on Ravenhill Park. Having the benefit of two allocated side by side parking spaces to the front and an abundance of upgrades throughout the property must be viewed to appreciate and is an ideal FTB/Investment purchase

Sheringham Drive, Etching Hill

£175,000

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented detached home with No Upward Chain. Internal inspection is highly recommended and accommodation includes: Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Conservatory, Three bedrooms and shower room, Front and Rear Gardens with driveway

Huntsmans Walk, Etching Hill

£169,950 Guide Price

NEW  
PRICE



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious and well presented link detached home in a popular location. Offered with No Upward Chain comprising of hallway, three bedrooms, kitchen/diner, bathroom and garage. The property is currently Leasehold however the current owners are in the process of purchasing the Freehold therefore the property will be registered Freehold on completion for prospective purchasers

St Johns Drive, Hawksyard

£209,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented and spacious detached family home situated on the ever popular Hawksyard development. Featuring gas central heating and double glazing the property should be viewed to appreciate the family sized accommodation on offer with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two reception rooms and garage with a larger than average rear garden

"Serving Rugeley and its Villages"





# Lovett & Co.

estate agents

# ONLY 0.9%\* INC VAT

\* terms and conditions apply

<p><b>Littleworth Road RAUNSLLEY</b></p>  <p>Five bedroom detached family home / NO UPWARD CHAIN / Breakfast kitchen / Drive for more than ten vehicles / Enclosed rear garden / EPC: C</p> <p>Offers in Excess of £400,000</p>	<p><b>Hednesford Road RUGELEY</b></p>  <p>Deceptively spacious five/six bedroom detached house / Spacious five/six bedroom detached house / First floor annexe offering a further bedroom, lounge and kitchenette / Large rear garden /</p> <p>£350,000</p>	<p><b>Albany Drive WIMBLEBURY</b></p>  <p>Immaculately presented executive detached family home / Four double bedrooms / Set back &amp; raised from the road on good sized plot down quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious living &amp; sleeping accommodation</p> <p>£320,000</p>	<p><b>Chaplain Road HEATH HAYES</b></p>  <p>Immaculately presented four bedroom detached house / Deceptively spacious living &amp; sleeping accommodation / Stunning open plan kitchen-diner / Modern fitted bathroom &amp; en-suite</p> <p>£310,000</p>	<p><b>Newbury Road NORTON CANES</b></p>  <p>Four bedroom detached house / Set on a good sized corner plot / Spacious living &amp; sleeping accommodation / Modern fitted kitchen &amp; bathrooms / Private rear garden</p> <p>£300,000</p>	<p><b>Wenlock View HEDNESFORD</b></p>  <p>Executive four bedroom detached family home / Set on small private development / Stunning open plan kitchen-diner / Spacious living room / High spec kitchen / En-suite plus guest WC</p> <p>£300,000</p>
<p><b>Hill Street HEDNESFORD</b></p>  <p>Refurbished five bedroom detached family home / Side extension &amp; modern finish to high standard throughout / Spacious sleeping accommodation / High spec bathroom &amp; en-suite / Large carport to</p> <p>£280,000</p>	<p><b>Canterbury Way HEATH HAYES</b></p>  <p>Truly outstanding executive detached four bedroom family home / Finished to a show house standard and immaculately presented throughout / Stunning open plan high spec dining kitchen / Delightful</p> <p>£279,995</p>	<p><b>Stephenson Way HEDNESFORD</b></p>  <p>Three bedroom detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious lounge-diner / Good sized private rear garden / Garage and driveway for four cars</p> <p>£264,950</p>	<p><b>Bramwell Drive HEDNESFORD</b></p>  <p>Outstanding &amp; immaculately presented four bedroom town house / Occupying a large corner plot / High spec finish throughout / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Two en-suites</p> <p>Offers in Excess of £260,000</p>	<p><b>Cannock Road HEATH HAYES</b></p>  <p>Stunning three bedroom detached family home / Refurbished to an extremely high standard throughout / Three double bedrooms / Large garden / Driveway for several cars</p> <p>£260,000</p>	<p><b>St Thomas Drive RAUNSLLEY</b></p>  <p>Immaculately presented four bedroom detached house / Refurbished to high standard throughout / New driveway / Modern fitted kitchen / Re-plastered lounge &amp; new fireplace</p>
<p><b>Oak Woods CANNOCK</b></p>  <p>Immaculately presented three bedroom detached house / Stunning open plan living area with kitchen, diner and sitting area / Show house finish throughout / Quiet cul-de-sac</p> <p>£240,000</p>	<p><b>Juniper Close HAZEL SLADE</b></p>  <p>Well presented three bedroom detached family home / Highly desirable semi rural area / Spacious lounge &amp; open plan kitchen-diner / Charming good sized private rear garden / Integral garage</p> <p>£230,000</p>	<p><b>Wade Lane RUGELEY</b></p>  <p>Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Set on good sized corner plot / highly sought after area / Spacious lounge / Kitchen-diner / Good sized low maintenance rear garden</p> <p>Offers in Excess of £210,000</p>	<p><b>Walsall Road BRIDGTOWN</b></p>  <p>Spacious extended four bedroom detached house / Set on a large plot / Spacious reception rooms and bedrooms / Large private rear garden which is not overlooked,</p> <p>Offers in Excess of £210,000</p>	<p><b>Pendle Hill HEDNESFORD</b></p>  <p>Well presented semi detached three bedroom house / Set over three storeys / Spacious lounge and separate dining room / Private rear garden / Superb top floor master bedroom</p> <p>Offers in Excess of £200,000</p>	<p><b>Hobby Way HEATH HAYES</b></p>  <p>Immaculately presented three bedroom townhouse / Finished to an exceptionally high standard throughout / Set over three storeys / High spec fitted kitchen / Driveway for two vehicles and a detached garage</p> <p>Offers in Excess of £200,000</p>
<p><b>Lime Pit Lane CANNOCK</b></p>  <p>Immaculately presented and superbly maintained three bedroom detached house / Set on a corner plot within a modern sought after development /</p> <p>Offers in the Region Of £199,995</p>	<p><b>Pye Green Road CANNOCK</b></p>  <p>Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Superb contemporary open plan layout on the ground floor / Modern fitted kitchen &amp; bathroom / Low maintenance private rear garden / Low</p> <p>£199,950</p>	<p><b>Hill Street HEDNESFORD</b></p>  <p>Immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached house / Dining kitchen / Spacious lounge / Large rear garden / Driveway with parking for several cars</p> <p>£195,000</p>	<p><b>Elder Close HEATH HAYES</b></p>  <p>Well presented three bedroom detached house / Set on quiet cul-de-sac / Planning permission to extend full length to the side with storeys / Additional garage conversion / Spacious lounge &amp; modern</p> <p>£190,000</p>	<p><b>Braemar Road NORTON CANES</b></p>  <p>Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Lounge-diner / Conservatory, guest WC &amp; garage / En-suite to master / Block paved drive with parking for up to three vehicles</p> <p>£180,000</p>	<p><b>Huntington Terrace Road CANNOCK</b></p>  <p>1930's style three semi detached house / Spacious lounge &amp; dining room / Modern kitchen / Driveway / Good sized rear garden</p> <p>Offers in Excess of £150,000</p>
<p><b>Bedford Way RUGELEY</b></p>  <p>Three bedroom end terraced house / Idyllic semi rural location on the fringe of Cannock Chase / Stunning views of the countryside / Spacious extended lounge &amp; front sitting room / Driveway with</p> <p>£150,000</p>	<p><b>Heath Gap Road CANNOCK</b></p>  <p>Traditional Victorian three bedroom semi detached house / Modern fitted kitchen &amp; ground floor bathroom / Spacious living accommodation / Large private rear garden</p> <p>£133,000</p>	<p><b>Church View BRERETON</b></p>  <p>Charming two bedroom terraced cottage / Spacious lounge / Large double bedroom plus a further good sized single / Private rear courtyard / Off road parking</p> <p>£120,000</p>	<p><b>Littleworth Road HEDNESFORD</b></p>  <p>Three bedroom character property / Situated in semi rural location / NO ONWARD CHAIN &amp; VACANT POSSESSION / Two spacious reception rooms / Private rear garden &amp; off road parking</p> <p>£120,000</p>	<p><b>Bettys Lane NORTON CANES</b></p>  <p>Well presented one bedroom first floor self contained maisonette / Ideal for first time buyers &amp; investors / Superb open plan living area / Modern fitted kitchen, newly fitted bathroom / Double bedroom</p> <p>Offers in Excess of £80,000</p>	<p><b>Longacres RAUNSLLEY</b></p>  <p>One bedroom first floor maisonette / Ideal for first time buyers and investors / Modern fitted kitchen &amp; bathroom / Spacious lounge</p> <p>£80,000</p>

**Tel: 01543 889410      www.lovettco.co.uk**





Keable Homes Ltd  
Sales & Lettings

# Keable Homes

Suite 1, Watling Chambers, 214 Watling Street, A5, Cannock, WS11 0BD

Formerly Keable Webb Lettings - Est 2003

## THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

*Only 1 week left to take  
advantage of our*

# £500

**sales fee  
offer**

Must end 30th April 2018 so don't delay  
call us for your free valuation today on

## 01543 468847

**HEATH HAYES**  
SQUIRREL CLOSE

Unfurnished  
Detached House  
Lounge  
Kitchen  
3 Bedrooms  
Bathroom

GCH & DG  
Conservatory  
Garden  
Parking  
EPC Rating E

**£750 pcm & FEES - NO DSS**

**NORTON CANES**  
CHURCH VALE

Unfurnished  
Detached Bungalow  
Lounge  
Kitchen  
3 Bedrooms  
Bathroom

Gas Central Heating  
Double Glazing  
Rear Garden  
Garage  
EPC Rating E

**£725 pcm & FEES - NO DSS**

**HEATH HAYES**  
SQUIRREL CLOSE

Unfurnished  
Semi Detached  
House  
Through Lounge  
Kitchen  
3 Bedrooms

Bathroom  
Gas Central Heating  
Double Glazing  
Rear Garden  
Garage  
EPC Rating E

**£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS**

**CHESLYN HAY**  
LAPWING CLOSE

Semi Detached  
House  
Lounge  
Dining Room  
Extended Kitchen  
3 Bedrooms

Bathroom  
Gas Central Heating  
Double Glazing  
Rear Garden  
Parking  
EPC Rating C

**SSTC**

**CHESLYN HAY**  
STATION STREET

Unfurnished  
Terrace House  
Lounge  
Dining Room  
Kitchen  
3 Bedrooms

Bathroom  
Gas Central Heating  
Double Glazing  
Rear Garden  
EPC Rating E

**SSTC**

**WIMBLEDON**  
HAMILTON CLOSE

First Floor Flat  
Lounge  
Kitchen  
1 Bedroom  
Bathroom

Double Glazing  
Spacious Loft  
Parking  
EPC Rating D

**SSTC**

**HEDNESFORD**  
STAGBOROUGH WAY

Semi Detached  
Bungalow  
Lounge  
Kitchen  
2 Bedrooms  
Bathroom

Gas Central Heating  
Double Glazing  
Front & Rear Garden  
Garage  
Driveway  
EPC Rating D

**£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS**

**BARNARD WAY**  
CANNOCK

Unfurnished  
Town House  
Lounge  
Kitchen Diner  
3 Bedrooms  
Bathroom

Gas Central Heating  
Double Glazing  
Rear Garden  
Garage  
EPC Rating C

**£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS**

**HEDNESFORD**  
BROMLEY CLOSE

Unfurnished  
Semi Detached House  
Lounge  
Kitchen Diner  
3 Bedrooms  
En Suite

Family Bathroom  
GCH & DG  
Rear Garden  
Parking  
EPC Rating D

**£645 pcm & FEES - NO DSS**

**BRIDGTOWN**  
ROMAN COURT A5

Unfurnished  
Executive Apartments  
Open Plan Lounge  
Kitchen  
2 Bedrooms  
Bathroom

Electric Heating  
Double Glazing  
Parking  
Awaiting EPC

**£625 pcm & FEES - NO DSS**

**HEDNESFORD**  
GREENHEATH ROAD

Unfurnished  
Lounge  
Dining Room  
Kitchen  
3 Bedrooms  
Bathroom

Gas Central Heating  
Double Glazing  
Rear Garden  
Parking  
EPC Rating E

**£595 pcm & FEES - NO DSS**

**CANNOCK**  
BEECROFT ROAD

Modern Apartments  
Available Including  
Lounge  
Kitchen  
2 Bedrooms  
Bathroom

Electric Heating  
Double Glazing  
Protected Access  
Parking Available (£25 pcm)  
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Its accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hall, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

It is mostly double glazed with front and rear gardens, a driveway and a single car garage including an outside WC.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in this ideal family property.

For further information, or to book a viewing, call Southwell Estates at their branch office on 01889 582137.



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<<<

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Externally the bungalow has a driveway and laid lawn to the front with side access leading to the mature rear garden.

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## MOTURING

## ROAD TEST



A combination of sporting looks and performance with executive style, space and luxury should be a winner

# Iconic, century-old Italian marque looks as if it's back in race in this exclusive market

By John Griffiths

We hear a lot about crossovers in today's car market, but usually that refers to a combination of estate car and SUV.

Maserati's big Quattroporte (simply, and slightly unimaginatively 'Four Door' is the legendary Italian marque's cross between a luxury limousine and a sports saloon – not always a niche product that's done well.

The latest Quattroporte – the sixth generation of the car, first launched soon after its two-door coupe and cabrio models – does the job rather well.

It looks low, sleek and sporty, but inside it is luxuriously equipped and with space to rival long wheelbase versions of celebrity express models such as the Audi A8 and the Jaguar XJ.

With powerful petrol or diesel engines and multiple driving modes the driver can swap between cossetting suspension even on the low (45 profile) tyres or an altogether more dynamic drive at the touch of a button.

### Technology

All versions are highly specified, with the latest technology, lashings of soft leather and (on flagship versions) a bespoke silk interior with polished wood inserts.

Prices range from £71,530 the V6 diesel to £118,525 for the 3.8 litre, V8 GranSport GTS.

The test car was a 3.0 litre V6 diesel version, with 275bhp but perhaps more important for a car of this nature – a hefty 600 Nm of torque from just 2,000rpm, which wafts the car along with effortless ease.

It does the 0 to 62mph sprint in 6.5 seconds seamlessly, thanks to the slick eight-speed ZF automatic transmission. The two top ratios are pitched for motorway economy, allowing official (laboratory test) average fuel and CO<sub>2</sub> figures of 45.6mpg and 163g/km respectively.

The driver mode buttons affect steering, throttle and gear response, so you cancel the most economic setting around town or in traffic and switch to sport (with its Skyhook suspension stiffening noticeably) when you hit the open road.

The electric power steering, fitted for the first time, has allowed the addition of the multiple driving modes and yet provides the sort of driver feedback enthusiasts expect.

The Quattroporte has the unmistakable feel of a powerful rear



The cabin's trim is lavish, with quality leather

wheel drive car, but with an array of electronic safety systems to keep you safe and on line when the weather turns bad – amply illustrated in the monsoon-like conditions of my test drive.

Just as its sleek lines disguise its true dimensions, the steering, chassis and suspension means it is light and pleasingly agile on twisting roads, it doesn't disappoint.

### Tweaks

It's not only the body which has changed in this latest Quattroporte (styling tweaks have also improved aerodynamics), it also benefits from a new platform, retaining the ideal 50/50 front to rear weight balance which is another key factor in its agility.

New adaptive LED headlights complete facelift, while under the skin Maserati has upgraded the safety and driver assistance systems, with features such as the 'integrated vehicle control' developed by Bosch – an advanced version of the typical electronic stability programme designed to prevent potential loss of control, rather than correct it afterwards.

Other features include traffic sign recognition, lane keep assist and blind spot warning.

The cabin's trim is lavish, with quality leather and metallic materials and space to spare – the rear seat

easily accommodates three adults with ample legroom to stretch out in limousine style.

The dash is minimalist, its dominant feature being a large, high resolution touch screen for navigation, the premium audio and full smartphone connectivity systems.

A rotary knob on the centre console offers a secondary, intuitive control for the many systems.

There are two versions of the Quattroporte's V6 petrol engine with either 350 or 430bhp – or you could opt for the 530bhp V8 which sprints to 62mph in a supercar-like 4.7 seconds.

The price of extra power is, as always, lower fuel economy and higher emissions – 26.4mpg and 250g/km for CO<sub>2</sub> for the Ferrari-derived V8 – but in this rarefied area of the market, that may not deter too many well-heeled buyers who can afford £118,000 for a full five seat supercar.

The previous Quattroporte was Maserati's biggest seller, so this significantly improved 2018 model with its combination of sporting looks and performance with executive style space and luxury should be a winner for the company.

Add to that its upgraded Ghibli and new Lavante SUV, the century-old Italian marque linked to some of the greatest drivers in history such as Fangio and Moss looks as if its back in the race in this exclusive market.



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# Good looking with sporty tweaks

By Carmel Stewart

The Vauxhall Insignia GSi brings us right back to the days when the roads weren't crowded with cars, the motorways weren't constantly at a standstill and driving still had an element of fun.

With improved rigidity and much lighter than the previous holder of the 'performance' rosette, the Insignia VXR\*, this new model handles brilliantly, whether on the track or the open road – remember them?

It is available either as a Grand Sport hatchback or a Sports Tourer estate. Both are good looking, with aerodynamic styling; the added sporty tweaks and twirls and serious re-engineering have combined to make this a driving experience which balances performance and comfort – flattering some and stretching others.

Styling cues include GSi front and rear body styling and side sills with a large rear spoiler, 20-inch alloys and tinted rear windows.

The chassis has been lowered by 10mm as compared to the standard Insignia, while special springs, dampers, tyres, wheel hubs, stabilizer bar, Brembo brakes and drive shafts have all been added with performance in mind. In addition, Vauxhall has tweaked its FlexRide chassis specially for the GSi so that steering response, suspension damping and the torque-vectoring all-wheel drive system can be adjusted by selecting Normal, Tour or Sport.

For those for whom speed is an essential element, there is an ESC Competitive mode which is engaged by double-pressing the ESC button, allowing confident drivers to



There are tinted rear windows

'achieve maximum cornering speeds on a circuit. It allows for greater slip angles to match a more aggressive driving style.'

Engine choices are very straightforward – 2.0litre turbo petrol or 2.0litre bi-turbo diesel. The latter 210ps unit produces 480 Nm of torque at 1,500 rpm and has a top speed of 145mph.

For those who like the techie stuff, during normal driving the engine is in two-stage mode so there is super sharp throttle response. At high speeds, it switches over to single-stage for maximum airflow and efficiency. The petrol unit is no slouch either, packing as it does 260ps/400Nm of torque with a top speed red lining at 155mph.

Both are married to a super smooth eight-speed automatic transmission with parameters tweaked for optimum shift points, with paddles included as standard.

Expect an average 40.4mpg from the diesel and 32.8mpg from the petrol.



Styling cues include GSi front and rear body styling and side sills

Inside, the sporty intentions are evident from the moment the door is opened – metal pedals, heated flat bottomed steering wheel and specially designed leather sports seats. These at first look and feel as if they are gripping in all the wrong places.

Two hours later, after a drive encompassing a mixture of highway, byways and motorways, you'll emerge and realise they were a perfect fit.

On the road the GSi proved pacy and

precise, with stunningly solid road holding, and unwavering composure.

Prices start at £32,975 for the Grand Sport and £34,475 for the Sports Tourer which includes a very decent amount of kit as well as that brilliantly balanced, dynamic driving experience.

Standard spec includes an excellent head-up display, navigation, leather sport seats, heated front and outer seats plus drive and passenger massage facility.

Optional extras worth considering are the sunroofs (£705 for the Grand Sport and £960 for the Sports Tourer), the rear-view camera at £350, and the wireless charger at £160.

\* The introduction of GSi does not signal the end of VXR, says Vauxhall, adding: "The VXR is a "hardcore" sports car, one that is ready for weekend outings on a race track. We are continuing to evaluate what future VXR models might be like."

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# Stonic is not supersonic but it does its job very well indeed

By Sharon Walters

Kia joined Europe's fastest-growing market at just the right time last year. The small (B-segment) SUV has quickly populated our roads and the very different looking Stonic is making its mark.

This year Kia expects to sell between 8,000 and 10,000 in the UK and so far looks to be on track.

It was designed in Europe at the company's Frankfurt design studios and was originally intended only for Europe and thoroughly tested on European roads which gave it a good start against others in the class. But it impressed Kia's Korean home market that it's going to be sold there as well.

In the UK there is a five-model line-up based on grade 2 and First Edition trim levels. All versions offer an extensive package of connectivity features, including links to Android Auto and Apple CarPlay via pre-downloaded smartphone apps, while advanced electronic driver assistance systems such as autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning and automatic switching between high and low headlight beams are available.

It's based on the Rio supermini and is slightly longer, taller and rides higher to give it an SUV stance. But it doesn't look like a Rio as it has a bespoke body and



The First Edition has colour accents in the cabin

interior – and how I like the exterior and interior. As mentioned earlier, it looks very different and makes a pleasant change to many of the opposition in the sector. And my test car First Edition stood out even more thanks to its two-tone paintwork with the roof, wing mirror casings and rear spoiler picked out in either black, lime green, red or orange, depending on the choice of main body colour, and there are colour accents in the interior on the seats and around the lower centre console and display screen areas. Mine had the lime green on the graphite and while at first it looked a little 'in your face' I really grew to like it.

All versions have plenty of equipment, with an extensive range of active safety features and up-to-the-minute connectivity in First Edition versions.

There is a 7.0-inch display with a DAB radio and MP3 compatibility in grade 2, and in the First Edition this is upgraded to a 7.0-inch touchscreen navigation and infotainment system featuring Kia Connected Services with TomTom™, Android Auto™ and Apple CarPlay™ smartphone integration are standard across the range.

All models have 17-inch alloy wheels, air conditioning, all-round electric windows with an automatic function on the driver's side, roof rails, rear parking sensors, remote locking, electrically adjustable heated door mirrors, a 3.5-inch supervision cluster, Bluetooth with music streaming, automatic headlight control, bi-function projection headlamps and cornering lights and LED daytime running lights, and a whole lot more.

The First Edition adds more including smart key entry system and engine start/stop button, automatic air conditioning, LED rear lights, privacy glass on the rear side windows and tailgate and heated front seats. It is not the highest quality of trims (but then this car doesn't cost enough to warrant that!) but is perfectly acceptable and good quality. Controls are not over complicated and everything is well laid out.

Three engines are available, headed by Kia's little jewel, the 1.0-litre T-GDi unit delivering 118bhp.

This was my power in the test car and it is a little gem indeed. It took on a lengthy motorway run with no trouble with plenty of poke when needed and cruised along very nicely. Official figures show 56.5mpg with emissions of 115g/km. I managed around 52 but then I wasn't driving in 'laboratory' conditions. There's also a 1.4-litre multi-point injection (MPI) naturally aspirated 98bhp petrol engine and the 108bhp 1.6-litre CRDi turbodiesel.

Add the seven year/100,00 mile warranty and this car deserves a test.

Prices start at £16,295 on-the-road.



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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia range of vehicles are between Urban: 29.1 (9.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra-Urban: 46.3 (6.1) – 94.2 (3.0) and Combined: 38.2 (7.4) – 88.3 (3.2). The official CO2 emissions for the Kia range of vehicles are between 86 – 189g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit [kia.co.uk](http://kia.co.uk) or see your local dealer. \*You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made. T&Cs apply. Subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Price and specification is subject to change without notice. Offers subject to stock availability, terms and conditions. Acorn Kia is a credit broker not a lender for this financial promotion. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Pictures for illustration purposes only.







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# Rugged crossover estate given a quality upgrade

By Anthony Martyn

Host to a series of updates, both exterior and interior, Outback is a rugged crossover estate, redesigned to raise cabin quality and refine the model's plethora of safety offerings.

Boasting a significant upgrade in technology and trim, the changes come at no extra costs for customers as pricing remains the same as the previous model.

Among the most significant changes to the exterior is the redesigned front grille, bumper, door mirrors and headlights.

The hexagonal grille redesign showcases a sharper, more defined shape and incorporates the distinctive Subaru wing design, which draws parallels to the iconic horizontally opposed Boxer engine.

An addition to both the exterior design and the safety suite is a new front view camera, which has been positioned below the marques six-star badge. Placed on the front grille, the front view camera can monitor a 180°-degree area in front of the car that would normally be in the driver's blind spot.

These images, as well as visible guidelines, are displayed on the touchscreen to aid drivers in gauging potential hazards in front of the car and improve overall manoeuvring.

Allowing for increased all-round visibility, the 2018 Outback SUV is fitted with an additional side view camera mounted at the base of the passenger door mirror.

Displaying the area diagonally in front of the passenger side of the Outback, the resulting imaging allows drivers to navigate through narrow spaces with greater ease.

A welcome addition to the Outback is the inclusion of Lane Keep Assist, which completes the EyeSight driver assistance safety technology suite – included as standard on all 2018 Outback models.

Lane Keep Assist offers gentle steering control if the vehicle is about to deviate from its lane at approximately 40mph or above.



The front grille, bumper, door mirrors and headlights have been redesigned

Subaru's EyeSight driver assist technology suite includes: Adaptive Cruise Control, Lead Vehicle Start Alert, Lane Sway and Departure Warning, Lane Keep Assist, Pre-collision Braking System and Pre-collision Throttle Management. Steering Responsive Headlights are also new, improving driver safety and increasing visibility at night. The headlight beams mirror the driver's steering input to illuminate corners when turning.

Interior changes include a subtle redesign. New decorative gloss black panels and silver surrounds create a consistent and sophisticated look, whilst the touchscreen size has been increased from 7" to a new 8" multifunction colour touchscreen for the SE Premium model, which is also compatible with both Apple CarPlay™ & Android Auto™ and DAB radio functionality. The SE trim level also receives a refresh with an updated 6.5" multifunction colour touchscreen

and fabric seating trim with heated front seats.

Outback is powered by a naturally-aspirated 2.5-litre 'FB25' petrol unit.

Due to the size and shape of Subaru's Boxer engine, it is installed lower down and further back than a conventional engine for a lower centre of gravity and transitions beneath the passenger compartment in the event of a collision, providing an added level of safety for occupants within the vehicle.

The Boxer engine – with its unique 'punch-counterpunch' rotational cycle – offers smoothness, low vibration and noise, plus excellent accelerator response. The 2.5L engine produces 175PS at 5,800rpm and 235Nm torque at 4,000 rpm.

The engine returns fuel economy of 38.7mpg on the combined cycle and CO2 emissions of 166g/km. Prices for the 2018 Subaru Outback start from £29,995 for the SE Model and £33,010 for the SE Premium.



# Peugeot 3008 SUV scoops gold

The Peugeot 3008 SUV has added to its collection of accolades and scooped gold in the 'Car of the Year' and 'Mid-Size SUV' categories in the Auto Express 16th Driver Power survey.

Driver Power is the UK's largest and most in-depth automotive customer satisfaction survey, with participation from more than 80,000 UK car owners.

The owners ranked the Peugeot 3008 SUV as the best performing Mid-Size SUV in five of the nine Driver Power judging categories: Exterior; Practicality & Boot Space; Ride & Handling; Safety Features and Reliability & Build Quality.

The victory did not stop there as the 3008 SUV was rated as the best vehicle in the 'Exterior' category and the 'Safety Feature' category, across all of the vehicle classes.

Success

Since it launched in late 2016, the 3008 SUV has been a huge success for the Peugeot brand, with 350,000 sold worldwide and 23,000 in the UK.

It demonstrates the latest technology with the state of the art Peugeot i-Cockpit®, which offers a more intuitive and engaging driving experience with a compact multi-function steering wheel, 12.3" head-up digital instrument display and 8.0" capacitive touchscreen with Mirror Screen® functionality, comprising: Android Auto, Apple CarPlay™ and Mirror Link®.

In addition, the Peugeot 3008 SUV has a five star NCAP safety rating and offers



The Peugeot 3008 SUV scooped gold in the 'Car of the Year' and 'Mid-Size SUV' categories in the Auto Express survey

a host of safety features as standard on all trim levels, including: AEBs – Automatic Emergency Braking System,

CDS – Dynamic Stability Control and ASR Electronic Anti-skid System and a Driver Attention Alert System.

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief of Auto Express and Carbuyer said: "This is a fantastic result for Peugeot and the 3008

SUV. It's a car that has already won multiple awards from both Auto Express and Carbuyer, and now owners have confirmed what we've been saying all along – it's a great car that's really satisfying to own."

Wesley Lang, senior research manager at Driver Power, said: "The 3008's performance proves that SUVs can excel in many judging categories long thought to be the domain of smaller vehicles.

"What is especially notable is that overall the 3008 SUV ranks third in Ride & Handling and fifth in Reliability & Build Quality across all ranked vehicles."

David Peel, managing director at Peugeot UK, said: "It is an outstanding achievement for the Peugeot 3008 SUV to have won gold in the Car of the Year and Mid-Size SUV categories in the UK's largest car satisfaction survey.

Accolades

"With the addition of these two accolades, the Peugeot 3008 SUV has now won an incredible 45 awards globally since launch.

"In a segment with fierce competition, these accolades are especially meaningful as they are decided by our valued customers and are a real testament to the hard work and innovation of our talented teams of designers and engineers.

"I'd like to thank Auto Express and the entire Driver Power team for their support and hard work in bringing such a valuable survey to the industry."

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Customer Deposit	£2,500.00	Amount to Finance	£5,495.00	1 Final Payment of	£25.00	Representative APR	7.33%

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## Deaths

CARROLL  
Patricia  
(Pat)

Passed away at County Hospital on Sunday, April 15, 2018, aged 80 years.

Pat will be sadly missed by all her loving Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to be held at St Luke's Church, Cannock on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 1pm, followed by Burial at Cannock Cemetery.

Family flowers or donations for Heart and Lung Foundation will be gratefully accepted on the day.

All inquiries to

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This is subject to change Bank Holidays.

Eg (4pm Thursday)

Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

## COOPER

Margaret Gladys

nee Bostock

Passed away peacefully on April 19, 2018, at Kings Bromley Care Home, aged 88.

She will be very sadly missed by her loving Husband Cyril, Daughters Helen, Jackie and Families.

Funeral Service to take place, 3pm on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at Stafford Crematorium.

By request Family flowers only, donations for The Salvation Army and Dementia UK may be sent c/o

The co-operative  
funeralcare  
17 Breckton Road, Rugeley,  
Staffs, WS15 1DN  
01890 582315

## COUGHLAN

Stephen James

Passed away April 12, 2018, aged 88.

Much loved Brother of Betty and Brother-in-law Ron, Nieces Mary, Jane and Jennifer, Nephews Christopher, Paul (Charlie), Mark, Karl, William, Dennis, Michael and Families.

Funeral to take place at St Michael's Church, Brereton on May 1, at 1pm. Burial at Stile Cop, followed by refreshments at The Mansfield House.



## FAIRWEATHER

Father David James

Passed away, at home, on April 18, 2018, aged 83 years.

The Funeral Service will take place at St Mary the Virgin Church, Colton on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 10am, followed by the Burial at Stile Cop Cemetery.

Family flowers only please with donations, if desired, to Katharine House Hospice and Colton Church.

Sadly missed by his loving Wife Kathy and all of his Family.

For further details please contact

PHILLIP EMERY

Funeral Directors

Bedford House,

15 Bow Street,

Rugeley,

WS15 2BT.

Telephone 01899 582274.

## JONES

Sheila

Sadly passed away, Monday, April 16, 2018, aged 83 years.

Sheila was much loved and will be dearly missed by all of her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will be held on Friday, May 4, 2018, 11am, at St Luke's Church, Cannock, followed by a Committal at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired, for Cancer Research and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

All inquiries

A.J. Sellman  
Family Funeral Directors  
70 Church Street,  
Cannock, WS11 2HH  
**01543 502322**

## ROGERS

Winifred Blanche

Passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 14, 2018, aged 95 years.

Much loved and sadly missed by all her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service is to be held on Wednesday, May 2, 10.30am, at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.

Donations if so desired can be made for Midland Air Ambulance.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman  
Family Funeral Directors  
70 Church Street,  
Cannock, WS11 2HH  
**01543 502322**

## SYSUM

Dennis Michael

Passed away March 31, 2018.

Sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service is to be held at Stafford Crematorium, on May 3, at 11am.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman  
Family Funeral Directors  
70 Church Street,  
Cannock, WS11 2HH  
**01543 502322**

## TONGUE

Kathleen Jean

formerly Kendall

Passed away, April 16, 2018, aged 90 years.

Service at St James the Great Church, Norton Canes on Thursday, April 26, at 11am.

Flowers are welcome.

Donations for the County Air Ambulance may be forwarded to Funeral Directors

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Families Welcome  
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or  
visit historic market towns with friendly inns  
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145  
email: rita@meadowholidays.com  
www.meadowholidays.com

**Massage**  
**THE TANNING ROOMS**  
Full body massage 30 mins £22,  
40 mins £27, 1 hour £37  
SHOWER FACILITIES  
Call: 01902 782960

**Sports & Leisure**  
**Free Ads**  
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
To sell items upto £250.  
Online at  
bookanad.  
expressandstar.co.uk

**ANTIQUES WANTED**  
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins,  
Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches  
Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery  
**CHASE ANTIQUES**  
(Over 40 Years Trading)  
01543 572367 07831 818024

**Louis Taylor**  
Antique valuations first  
Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm  
Ancient High House Museum, Stafford, ST16 2JA  
01782 638100

**Furniture**  
**Furniture not sold, why not donate it?**  
We can turn your quality used  
furniture into 1st class care for  
patients at Katharine House  
Call us now on  
01543 466885  
for details or to arrange a  
FREE collection

**In Your Garden**

**C B SHEDS & FENCING**  
We supply & fit. Free quotes.  
Call: 01922 720270  
We also supply sleepers and decking

**CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD**  
Manufacturers and Suppliers of  
Heavy Duty Fully Treated Sheds,  
Summerhouses &  
All Garden Buildings.  
Super Quality/Competitive Prices  
Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available  
Unit 17, Oak Street,  
Quarry Bank DY5 2JH  
01384 913422/01384 569779  
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk

**LAWN TURF SUPPLIES**  
CUT FRESH IN EASY TO LAY  
ROLLS. DELIVERIES DAILY.  
TRENT VALLEY TURF  
01902 738217

**SHEDS NOW**  
Quality Garden Buildings  
Made to Measure at Competi-  
tive prices  
Sheds • Summerhouses •  
Planters • Arbours and more..  
Now at Swan End, Gnosall,  
Stafford ST20 0BE  
www.shedsnow.co.uk  
0800 698 0093

**SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN**  
FACED, only £1.87 inc. VAT.  
Ranton Building Supplies:  
01543 276006.

**Items For Sale**  
ADVERTISERS ARE  
REMINDED  
That the Business  
Advertisements (Disclosure)  
Order of 1977 requires that  
advertisements must clearly  
differentiate between Private  
and Trade.

**AIR FLYER** Touch screen (Lakeland)  
with cook book, as new £70 ono.  
07811 303165.

**ASH RECLAMATION** new and  
used building materials, upvc doors  
and windows 01543 453222.  
**CORRUGATED GALVANISED**  
Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also  
box profile and PVC/polycarb.  
David Buxton on 07834 489558.

## 3 Home & Services

**Antiques**

**Items For Sale**  
A GENUINE  
LADY BUYER  
PAYS TOP CASH ON ANY  
TYPE OF GOLD  
Any type of gold wanted, e.g 9 carat  
gold. Jewellery from £300+ per oz. Any  
amount collected. Gold coins, silver,  
medals, bank notes, oriental items,  
anything old, interesting or collectable  
Call Pauline on  
01922 495066  
or 07971 783206



**OLD VIOLINS WANTED**  
Must have a 14 inch main body.  
Needs to be over 100 years old.  
Any condition considered.  
£50 ono  
07922 618451

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**Items Wanted**  
**CASH PAID NOW! WANTED TOOLS**  
Hand Tools, Anything considered  
01543 452 491  
07539 340307

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID  
for antiques, vintage furniture,  
leather-winged arm chairs &  
chesterfield setes.  
01902 454144 or  
0121 5263375

READERS ARE ADVISED to  
carefully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any  
of their items.

**WANTED**  
**VINTAGE TOYS**  
Star Wars, He-Man, Ghost  
Busters, Ninja Turtles, Corgi or  
Dinky.  
All vintage toys considered.  
Good prices paid.  
Unleash the cash in your loft.  
Call Tony on 07812 903338.

**Loans**  
READERS ARE REMINDED  
that they may require profes-  
sional advice before entering into  
obligations.

**t.v. / home entertainment**  
**Service**  
AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST  
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky,  
CCTV cameras, TV wall mounts  
and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

**CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**  
  
"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"  
Bill - TV Link  
For great business results call  
01902 319 191  
**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**Photography & Camcorders**  
NIKON LENS. AF3R Zoom Nikkor  
80/400mm F4.5-5.6 DEDVR, as  
new. £450 ono.  
07812 739177 or 01922 611002.

**specialists at your service**  
**Photography & Camcorders**  
NIKON LENS. AF3R Zoom Nikkor  
80/400mm F4.5-5.6 DEDVR, as  
new. £450 ono.  
07812 739177 or 01922 611002.

**Aerials**

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99  
01902 858191 • 01384 429166  
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

**A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST**  
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV  
wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

**CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**  
  
"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"  
Steve - AA Digital Aerials  
For great business results call  
01902 319 191  
**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**  
  
"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."  
Michael - Portway Fencing  
For great business results call  
01902 319 191  
**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**Alarms/Security**  
**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
Call: 0121 601 9791

**Building Services**  
**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
All Building & Roofing Work  
Driveways, Landscaping  
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed  
Free Quotes: 07837 994465  
01902 579 592

**Building Supplies**

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles,  
Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York  
Stone, Cawarden 01889 974066.  
sales@cwawardenreclaim.co.uk

**Carpet Fitters**  
A CARPETS & VINYLs supplied or  
just fitted, quality samples brought  
to your home, no job too small, free  
quotes call Mark 01543 820598 /  
07941 619694.

**Domestic Repairs & Services**  
**SAME DAY LOW COST REPAIRS**  
Washing Machines,  
Tumble Dryers, Electric Cookers  
12 MONTHS GUARANTEE  
CALL ROY 07850 355552

**Double Glazing Repairs**  
S.P.S. replace misted glass, locks,  
hinges, window glass, doors, guaran-  
teed, OAP discount. 07983 704889

**External Rendering /Insulation**  
RENDER OR INSULATION  
20 year insurance backed guaran-  
tee. Free Quotes 01902 495 699  
www.ecotextoncontracts.co.uk

**Fencing**  
**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,  
gravel boards. £79.95  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

**CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**  
  
"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."  
Michael - Portway Fencing  
For great business results call  
01902 319 191  
**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**  
  
"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."  
Michael - Portway Fencing  
For great business results call  
01902 319 191  
**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**GARDEN KINGS**  
All Garden work and maintenance,  
Fencing, Tree Cutting,  
Turbing and much more  
Call: Steve for free quote  
07774449900 / 01902 238653

**BUSHBURY FENCING AND GATES**  
SUPPLY AND FITTING  
SPECIALISTS  
FREE QUOTES  
01902 827000  
07816 863810

**Gardening Services**  
Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services  
All garden work, tree felling/lopping,  
pruning, hedges trimmed, turf,  
patios, fencing, block-paving etc.  
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk  
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

**Gas Fitting**

READERS ARE ADVISED  
To check that anyone  
carrying out any Gas work  
is Gas Safe Registered.  
It is an offence under the Gas  
Safety (Installation and Use)  
Regulations 1998 to carry out  
gas work in the UK without  
being on the Gas Safe Register.

**Home Improvements**  
**RTD Builders & Home Improvements**  
• All general building work  
• Extensions & alterations • Kitchens  
& Bathrooms • UPVC Windows  
• Brickwalls & Patios  
Call Bob on 07710 611963  
davisr1952@gmail.com

**House Clearances**  
A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid  
for house clearances and bereave-  
ments. Also removals undertaken.  
07852 172641 / 07710 360327 /  
01902 534021

**ALL ROUND CLEARANCE**  
Professional family run business  
House clearances full or part,  
also garages, sheds etc.  
Telephone Kev  
07794 912844

**Kitchen Fitters**  
**THE KITCHEN FITTER**  
• Over 20 years' experience  
in kitchen fitting &  
project managing.  
• Specialist in fitting all  
retail kitchens.  
• Very competitive price.  
• Quick quotes over the  
phone can be given if  
preferred.  
• Supply now available!  
CONTACT MATT  
ON 07881 654 757  
or 01543 373 233

**Oven Cleaning**  
**OVEN CLEANING SERVICE**  
Ovens, double ovens, grills, hobs,  
ranges and agas. All cleaned to a  
professional standard.  
S&J Oven wizardz  
01785 612517

**Painters/ Decorators**  
DECORACE Painter & Decorator.  
Quality work at reasonable prices.  
OAP discounts. Free quotes:  
01902 635258 07876 135302.

**LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR**  
City and guild qualified, local, reli-  
able, affordable. 07916 399490.

**Plans Prepared**

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans.  
Drawn and submitted to Council.  
Tel: 01902 602000 / 07841 654037.  
Email: adamdesign@sky.com

**Plastering**  
**MINT PLASTERING**  
For the very best in plastering and rendering,  
full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls,  
stairs and landings from 200  
30 years experience.  
Free quotes. All work guaranteed  
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

**M&S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES**  
Home/Garden Improvements.  
Over 30 Years Experience  
Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

**Plumbing & Heating**  
**TAD PLUMBING & HEATING**  
For all your plumbing needs.  
30 years experience  
24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE!  
Call Trevor on 07791 319397  
www.tadplumbingandheatingwolverhampton.co.uk

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN  
No job too small or large. Call Will  
for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

**Removals**  
CALL DEAN NOW: For all your  
Removals needs, 07429 453209/  
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.  
**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote,  
full or part loads, all areas. Anything  
considered. Call on 07867 862227.

**Roofing**  
**MG ROOFING**  
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs,  
Fascias and Gutters.  
Call 01902 238989 /  
07580 465449.  
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

**Upholstery**  
**MR B'S UPHOLSTERY**  
RE-UPHOLSTERING OF SOFAS,  
DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS,  
CARPETRIMS AND MORE.  
www.mrbupholstery.co.uk  
01543 500677 07738 851601

## 4 Pets & Animals

**Pets Corner**

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when  
purchasing a puppy there are  
some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy  
Farmer:  
1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with its  
Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
establishment.

**Equestrian Corner**

ALL READERS are advised to  
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies  
have the required passport infor-  
mation, this is a legal requirement.

**Guns & Guns**

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and using  
guns.



## 5 Business & Farming

### Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

## 6 Property

### Accommodation To Let

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**TIPTON** one bed flat, with parking, DSS considered. Call/text 07779 615293.

### Houses for sale



**TWO BED SEMI BUNGALOW**  
Front and rear gardens  
Parking and garage  
Freehold property  
WV12 4DG  
£160,000 ono  
Contact 07505 465713.

### Property Exchanges

**EXCHANGE WANTED**  
Large 2 bed house, with off road parking. Good investment with sitting tenant.  
For 1 or 2 bedroom bungalow, any area, any condition.  
Phone 07772 806026

### Properties Wanted

**Home Cash Buyer**  
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**  
**Houses / Land Required**  
We also buy Commercial Property  
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**  
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

**Yes! HOMEBUYERS**  
**We will buy your house fast!**  
Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!  
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!  
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!  
**FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!**  
Call **01543 547 807**  
or text "Cash" to 66777  
yeshomebuyers.com

### Overseas Property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

## 7 Jobs

### Childcare

**ABACUS DAY NURSERIES**  
requires full/part time Qualified Nursery Nurses, only those who are reliable, flexible and enthusiastic need apply. Tel 01543 686523 or send CV to abacusnursery@btconnect.com

### Nursing & Carers

**MILESTONEZ SUPPORT WORKER VACANCY**  
Based in Cannock  
2 days per week  
Preferably experienced with learning disabilities  
Able to support females  
Contact Laura on 07522476791 or email: hello@milestonez.co.uk

**CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE**  
Real opportunities for you  
jobs.expressandstar.com

### Full Time General

## Star Employment

**Star Employment Services are currently recruiting for:**

- **2 x Materials Handler** with Counterbalance license
- **1 x Warehouse Operative**

**to join a growing company based in Hixon, Stafford.**

This is a company that offers real career progression and continues to grow.  
The Materials Handler will be expected to assist with general duties on the shop floor.  
Shift pattern is 4 days on, 4 days off (Night Shift) 6.00pm-6.00am, £7.83-£8.30 depending on experience plus 40% shift allowance.  
The Warehouse Operative will be expected to assist with general duties on the shop floor, lifting the lasers and helping move them around the warehouse.  
Shift Pattern will be 4 days on, 4 days off (days) 6.00am-6.00pm, £7.83 per hour.  
All positions are 12 weeks temp to perm with a permanent position at the end of this time for the right candidates.

For further information please visit our website **www.staremploymentservices.co.uk**  
Or to apply for any positions please call **01902 319333**  
or email CV to **jobs@staremploymentservices.co.uk**

**SMARTS PLUMBING SPECIALISTS LTD**  
Cannock based family owned business established since 1973.  
**Plumbing and heating engineers required**  
- must be fully qualified - all new build work based in the Midlands for all major builders - excellent rates of pay - lots of incentives/vehicle/travelling expenses - full order book for next three years.  
**Applications via email: alan@spsgascare.co.uk**  
- or telephone 01543 688960.  
Join our winning team.

**PFS PRO FREIGHT**  
We are a family run business and are looking to recruit **WAREHOUSE STAFF** to join our team

- Good Rates of Pay
- Company Pension
- Shift Work

For more information Tel: 01543 371970 or email your CV to: tim.dale@pfs-limited.com

**EXPERIENCED MOTOR TECHNICIAN / MECHANIC**  
We are a family run MOT and service centre located in Penkridge, Staffs.  
We are currently looking for an experienced Vehicle Technician / Mechanic to join our team.  
Permanent full time position - good rate of pay  
**Please contact: 07774 608192 for further details**

### Hotel & Catering

**BRIDGTOWN SOCIAL CLUB & INSTITUTE LTD**  
170 Walsall Road, Bridgtown, Cannock WS11 0JB  
Tel: 01543 503134  
Job opportunity:  
**STEWARDS / STEWARDESSES**  
With partner to assist if applicable. Full time permanent position.  
Accommodation supplied. Good rate of pay  
Experience of bar and cellar management essential.  
Please apply in writing with CV & covering letter to: The President or Secretary of Bridgtown Social Club  
Closing date: **Monday 7 May 2018**  
Email: **bridgtownsocialclub@btconnect.com**

## 8 Motoring

### Cars Over £1500

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

### EXCELLENT CONDITION

**FIAT 500 POP**  
2012.  
Low mileage.  
Blue tooth,  
Hands free set.  
MoT. FSH.  
£4,200 ono.  
07922 491881.



**FORD FIESTA**  
58 PLATE, 1.4 TDCI ZETEC  
Blue edition, metallic black.  
65,000 miles, MoT Jan 2019.  
Serviced, £30 per year road tax.  
Lady owner.  
Excellent condition.  
£2,399.  
07988 837407.

### Cars Under £1500



**FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME**  
Petrol, manual, registered 2004, MoT April 2019, air conditioning, electric windows / mirrors, radio / CD, reliable, garaged.  
£765  
0121 384 7888 / 07771 428793.



**MINI COOPER 1.6**  
2003, 91,200 miles. One owner since 2005. Long MoT. Service history. Half leather. HPI clear. Recent clutch. Very clean car. Well worth seeing.  
£1,495.  
01902 674550.

### LOW MILEAGE

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI**  
3-dr hatchback, silver, petrol.  
05 plate, full MoT.  
55,000 miles.  
2 owners from new.  
£695.  
0121 5202620.

### Scrap Vehicles

**MCB**  
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS  
Tel: **01902 408176**  
1000's of parts available at all times  
**MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ**  
OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

### Motorbikes

**ALL BIKES WANTED** Anything considered. Pristine, non runners, barn finds, unfinished projects Highways 07971 793661 or 01902 773608.

### Vehicles Wanted

**CROWN MOTORS**  
Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans  
**07903 549849**  
buyer will call

## CARS WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE!

Runners/ Non Runners, MOT Failures.  
Can Collect. Cash Waiting!  
Classic Cars, Scrap Cars, Motoring Memorabilia and Garage Tools Wanted!  
Call **07790 032224**  
**01902 823933**

### spares & accessories

### MOT's

**MOTs ONLY £29.50**  
formula one autocentres  
**CANNOCK WS11 0BN**  
**01543 50 20 00**  
**F1AUTOCENTRES.COM**

**STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**  
**DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC**  
**NORTON HALL LANE, CANNOCK**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council on 24th April 2018 made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Norton Hall Lane in Cannock between its junctions with Washbrook Lane and Church Road unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

An alternative route for traffic is available via Washbrook Lane, Church Road and vice versa. For more information, visit: <https://roadworks.org?tm=104713686>

The order will come into operation on 1st May 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 31st October 2018.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the S278 development works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change,  
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: 4101981 Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders) <http://roadworks.org>

Date: 26th April 2018

**STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (A460 EASTERN WAY, A5190 LICHFIELD ROAD AND HAYES WAY, CANNOCK) (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2018**

Staffordshire County Council on 24 April 2018 made a Traffic Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that imposed a 40 mph speed limit on **A460 Eastern Way, A5190 Lichfield Road and Hayes Way, Cannock**. Documents may be examined during office hours at 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH and during opening hours at Cannock Library, Manor Avenue, Cannock, Staffordshire or at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders). Persons questioning the validity or provisions of the Order on the grounds that such powers are not conferred by the Act, or that any requirement or instrument made under the Act has not been complied with, may within 6 weeks from the date the Order was made apply to the High Court. The Order will commence on 27 April 2018.

**STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (NORTON HALL LANE, CANNOCK) (RESTRICTED ROADS) ORDER 20\*\***

Staffordshire County Council propose to make a Traffic Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to impose a 30 mph speed limit on **Norton Hall Lane, Cannock**. This Order will revoke that part of the Staffordshire County Council (40 mph Speed Limit) (Norton Hall Lane and Washbrook Lane, Norton Cans) Order 2003 insofar as it relates to this Order. Documents may be examined during office hours at 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH and during opening hours at Norton Cans Library, Burntwood Road, Norton Cans, Cannock or at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders). Objections should be sent in writing to: Regulation & Governance, Highways, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH or to: [trafficregulationorderobjections@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:trafficregulationorderobjections@staffordshire.gov.uk) not later than 17 May 2018 quoting reference HoCPS/TM/TR1/18 and stating the grounds on which they are made.

**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY**  
\*Advertise any item **FREE** up to the value of £250  
go to: **www.expressandstar.com/bookanad**  
\*T&C's apply  
**Free Ads**



## Public Notices

### THE COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PROPOSALS



**Case Officer – Claire Faulkner**  
Location: The Grapevine Brewery Street Rugeley WS15 2DY  
CH/18/0138 - Advertisement application:- Display of 2No. Internally illuminated fascia signs and 1No. Internally illuminated totem sign

**Case Officer – Claire Faulkner**  
Location: 77, High Green, Cannock, WS11 1BN  
CH/18/140 - Application for Listed Building Consent:- Display of various illuminated and non-illuminated signage including fascia and hanging signs to replace existing

**Case Officer – Audrey Lewis**  
Location: 77, High Green, Cannock, WS11 1BN  
CH/18/139 - Advertisement application:- Display of various illuminated and non-illuminated signage including fascia and hanging signs

All applications may be inspected electronically at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected by paper file at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley.

The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments or representations about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG or by emailing to developmentcontrol@cannockchasedc.gov.uk by 17/05/2018 Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

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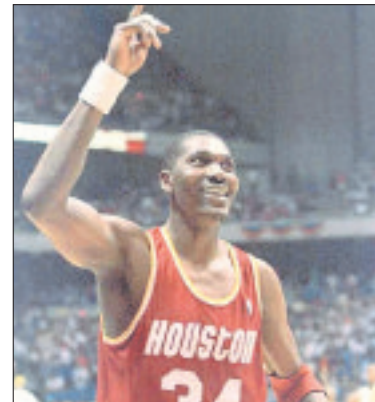
On the ball – coaching expert Clive



With Jamie Bunch, of the Albion Foundation



Clive's basketball daughter Dominique celebrates winning silver for England in Australia



Backing efforts – ex-NBA star Hakeem Olajuwon



Dudley-born Clive seen during his playing days

# We can bounce back, but only with funding – Allen

**A LACK of Government funding for basketball across the UK is nearing critical levels.**

That's according to Clive Allen, who enjoyed a stellar two-decade career in the British Basketball League (BBL), and is now one of the most prominent coaches in the Black Country.

Basketball, although an American import, is now the second most played team sport in the country – only behind football.

The game is played on the streets, on courts in parks and at sports centre across the country, particular in urban areas.

Dudley-born Allen, who played for the now defunct Birmingham Bullets for 15 years, winning two championship titles, is now head coach of the basketball section at Sporting Club Albion, which in turn forms part of the Albion Foundation.

With a rich background in playing and coaching in the game, he has been in prime position to see how lack of funding has affected the sport he loves.

## Thousands

"We have never really got a lot of funding from the Government, especially when compared with football," said Allen, whose funding for his team comes directly from the West Bromwich Albion Football Club.

"It becomes so relevant from my position where I can see all the money flowing in – football gets thousands and we get nothing.

"All my team funding comes through West Brom and the basketball players themselves."

Sports Minister Tracey Crouch recently said she held 'positive and constructive' talks with British basketball representatives about concerns over funding.

The meeting followed criticism the sport received nothing from UK Sport and warnings the national teams were close to folding.

UK Sport basis its funding on medal prospects and Allen said basketball found itself in a 'chicken and egg' situation.

"We don't get any money because of the medal prospects but we won't win medals without any funding," he said.

## SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

**'We don't get any money because of the medal prospects but we won't win medals without any funding'**

"There are so many people participating in basketball with clubs all over the country but it desperately needs more funding. Money is only going to the sports that are performing well but we are never going to do well in the Olympics without any money.

"We have some good players now mainly playing in the US and even in the NBA but England and Great Britain cannot afford the insurance needed to bring them back to play from their clubs for the country."

Britain's finest export is arguably Luol Deng, who now plays for the LA Lakers in the NBA.

He helped Team GB reach the London Olympics but now the national side cannot afford to cover his insurance and get him to play.

"We want the best players playing over here but we're not getting the money to do it," said Allen, whose daughter Dominique was part of the Team England side that won silver for basketball in the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

"If we could get all our best players back we would have a strong squad.

"Basketball is still a growing sport and there are so many kids taking part all over the country.

"And, no disrespect to other sports, but you also see how much is pumped into the likes of netball and it's very frustrating. Why can't we at least get some of it?

"When I'm running a session it costs about £50 to hire the court out for about an hour so then you're having to charge the kids £4 to £5 for the session."

The West Brom basketball teams have expanded from two to 12 since Allen took over in 2009, cover-

ing U14s up to the men's, which are now linked with Dudley College, Sandwell College and Wolverhampton University.

Allen said the lack of BBL teams in the West Midlands area – with Leicester Riders and Worcester Wolves currently the nearest clubs to the Black Country and Birmingham – was affecting funding and the direction of the sport locally.

The Bullets folded in 2006 as did the Birmingham Panthers and Birmingham Knights franchises soon after.

"Birmingham hasn't had its own team now for more well over five years so when you're trying to promote basketball in schools, colleges and universities it gets more difficult when there's no support or path for them to follow," he said.

"A football camp can get anything up to 300 kids coming along but we'll be lucky to get 50. The football fans can meet the players and tour the stadium.

"The closest we have are Worcester Wolves or Leicester Riders.

## Rockets

"The BBL Cup final is held at Arena Birmingham, which is something for the city, but none of the teams who make the finals are going to be local to the area.

"It's vital we get a team back up and running again to represent and support the Black Country and Birmingham."

Allen, who won five England caps, said the best option for the region appeared to be the City of Birmingham Rockets Basketball Club.

The potential relaunch has also received backing of former NBA star Hakeem Olajuwon, renowned as one of the finest ever players to grace the game.

Allen said: "His daughter goes to university in Birmingham and he bought a property over here and is interested in supporting the move.

"The team could be called the Birmingham Rockets in recognition of his time playing for the Houston Rockets in the NBA. It's early days but that seems to be the most promising option at present."

For further information about Allen's coaching programmes, call 07702 369606 or email [clive.allen@albionfoundation.co.uk](mailto:clive.allen@albionfoundation.co.uk)

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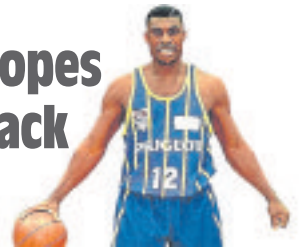
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# Sport

**Basketball's Clive hopes sport can bounce back**  
See page 59



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## Well done ref! Chloe wins award

A CANNOCK football referee from the University of Wolverhampton has received top recognition for her commitment to the women's game.

Chloe Matthews has been chosen as a British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Higher Education Football and Futsal Hero.



Chloe Matthews features in campaign

The award recognises her outstanding work in supporting, promoting and officiating the women's game.

Sports coaching practice (football) student Chloe features in a campaign to promote FA Girls' Football Week from April 23 to 29.

The 20-year-old said: "It's fantastic to be recognised by BUCS and I'm really glad that I can be a part

of a campaign to get more girls involved in football in any aspect of the game."

Chloe was nominated by Tracy Nash, professional and workforce sports manager at the university. She said: "Chloe is a great ambassador for the sport."

"It is great for her to be recognised as someone who goes that extra mile."

## Scholars lose lead after bright start

**Cleethorpes Town 1 Chasetown 1** CHASETOWN started this Evo-Stik South clash brightly, and keeper David Birch was lucky to escape with just a yellow card after handling outside his area.

Cleethorpes's best chance came when Brody Robertson beat the offside trap and Curtis Pond dashed out to save superbly.

But it was no surprise when Chasetown took the lead in the 35th minute.

A looping header from Nick Wellecombe came back off the post and over the line for his 50th goal for the Scholars.

The hosts started the second half well, and Robertson levelled after finding space inside the 18-yard box.

Chasetown are at home to Basford United on Saturday (3pm).

## Olympia get to final

OLYMPIA Cannock stormed into the England Handball National League Under 19 finals on Saturday. In the quarter-finals against Ealing, the Cannock girls had to dig deep, eventually winning by a solitary goal. In the semi-finals, they beat Pool Pirates by 25-16. Olympia will now meet Stroud in the final at Derby Arena on Saturday, May 5.

## Speed ace Ethan on fast track to success



Ethan Rogers - promising debut

AFTER a medical condition forced him to give up football, Ethan Rogers has found a sport in which he can truly go full throttle.

The teenage race ace, from Hednesford, is celebrating a promising debut in the world of motor sport and the Junior Saloon Car Championships. Rogers turned to the track after being diagnosed with ligamentous laxity - a condition that can

cause chronic body pain - which meant he could no longer participate in contact sport.

His mother Jacqui said: "He was so disappointed. He played all sorts of sports regularly. But in the end, the injuries all got too much."

A solution was found in the Junior Saloon Car Championships, which sees racers aged between 14 and 17 compete at some of the best courses

in the country over 18 rounds, across nine weekends of the year.

Despite Rogers having no experience in racing, he registered for the championship and set about preparing for the season, going on to finish a more than respectable seventh and eighth in his first two races.

He attends Kingsmead School and is now learning to fit studying for his GCSEs around life on the track.

# LEAGUE FINALE ENDS IN DEFEAT

**Hednesford Town 1 Mickleover Sports 3** HEDNESFORD Town's last home league game of the season ended in defeat.

Mickleover Sports started the game on the front foot and looked dangerous in the opening exchanges with Callam Mendez-Jones denying them in the 15th minute with a fine tackle inside the penalty area.

The visitors took the lead three minutes later though, when Pablo Mills sent in a looping header from a corner that deceived Town goalkeeper James Wren.

In the 25th minute, James Lawrie saw a header saved in front of goal before some last-ditch blocks inside the Pitmen's penalty area denied Sports three minutes later.

Hednesford thought they had drawn level in the 34th minute when Jack Rea broke forward.

### Looping

The ball found its way to Joey Butlin, who rifled a shot into the back of the net, only for the striker to be flagged offside and the goal ruled out.

Two minutes before half-time, the home side went close again when Louis Harris flicked a ball on to Reece King, with the midfielder looping a header onto the crossbar with no-one able to turn the rebound home.

Although it was Hednesford who started the second half the better of the two sides, it was Sports who doubled their lead in the 53rd minute. Some good football from the visitors saw William Norcross pick out Matthew Barnes-Homer, who slid the ball home from six yards out.

Hednesford continued to look for a way back into the game but the match was settled in the 59th minute when Mendez-Jones squared the ball to Norcross, who drilled a low effort home.

Danny Glover pulled a goal back with 10 minutes to go.

The Pitmen are at home to Nuneaton Town today (Thursday) in the Birmingham Senior Cup, kick-off 7.45pm, and away to Altrincham in the league on Saturday (3pm).

## Tennis club nets best venue title



Members of Cheslyn Hay Tennis Club are celebrating after receiving the award

CHESLYN Hay Tennis Club has picked up an award for increasing participation in the sport in the local area.

The club, based at Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre, is British Tennis's Midland LTA Tennis Venue of Year for 2017.

It runs successful Great British Tennis Open Days, festivals and free sessions at leisure centres and parks for all ages and abilities which have involved more than 1,000 people.

Head coach Chris Perrin said: "It's definitely nice for the club to be acknowledged as being able to make a difference in the community by British Tennis."

"Five year ago, there was no tennis in the area, and now we have lots of young people and adults in the community taking part."

For more information about the club call 07969 829318, visit cheslynhaytennis.com or email cheslynhaytennis@live.com

## Burntwood just miss out on promotion

**Uttoxeter 29 Burntwood 33**  
**Midlands 3 West North**

BURNTWOOD did what they had to do in the last game of the season in their bid for promotion. Unfortunately for them, so did Telford and Stafford.

All the top three earned bonus point wins so it was 'as you were' in the final league placings with Sean Latham's side a point behind Telford, level on points with Stafford, but missing out on promotion by virtue of recording one win less.

It is the second season running that they have finished third, even though their playing record this campaign is an improvement on 2016-17.

Facing potentially tricky opponents, the visitors seemed to have comfortably won the game, leading 33-8 with 15 minutes left, but a combination of circumstances set up the hosts for a barnstorming finish which almost brought them an unlikely win.

Burntwood 2nds leapfrogged Longton 2nds in the Staffs Reserve League Division One by beating them 24-17 at The Sportsway.

Burntwood will hold their annual dinner and presentation evening this Saturday. Mark Regan, England and British Lions' hooker, is the guest speaker.

## Hayes ease their way to 3 points

**Heath Hayes 3 Coventry Copswood 1** HAYES gained three valuable points with a comfortable win over mid-table Coventry Copswood.

It didn't take long for the home side to take an early lead.

With only three minutes on the clock Mark Potts deceived the Copswood keeper with a deft back heel.

Hayes looked a lot more solid than of late but succumbed to a goal from Danny Fraser whose 18-yard shot deflected past Hayes's keeper Mark Wiggins.

Ben Derbyshire put Hayes back in front when he found the bottom corner just before half-time.

Hayes made it 3-1 when Adam Weldon scored from close range when the ball found its way through a crowded goalmouth.

Heath Hayes continue another busy week today (Thursday), travelling down the A5 to play Atherstone.

\*\*\*

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freezer or a traditional range cooker, there is something to suit a variety of needs. Carrying well known brands like Hotpoint, Indesit, Hoover, Russell Hobbs and Samsung, the local company works with trusted companies to ensure high quality goods.

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